

STATE

state.gov/statemag
October 2018

MAGAZINE

Solidifying Partnerships

Mission Afghanistan team
participates in emergency exercise

Preventing Violent Extremism

Embassy Port of Spain leads next
generation of CVE work

COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs takes global action

Tap Headlines To Navigate

Features

IRM Global Telecommunications Services

Division reaches the gold standard

By Debora Nagy, Betty Scott, Evan Thomas and Fletcher Mack

Solidifying Partnerships

Mission Afghanistan team participates in emergency exercise

By Stephen D'Alessio

Post of the Month: Khartoum

Strengthening the bridge between the Middle East and Africa

By Keith Hughes

Combating the Opioid Crisis

INL takes global action

By Elizabeth Liu

Preventing Violent Extremism

Embassy Port of Spain leads next generation of CVE work

By Michael Barrera, Mignon Cardentey and AJ Jagelski

Building Sustainable Partnerships

Bangkok Eco-Capitals Forum hosts conference

By Paul C. Jorgensen

Columns

In the News

Retirements

Appointments

In Memoriam

In Brief

Lying In State

An open door leads to a traditional Nubian building in Sudan.



STATE MAGAZINE



Isaac D. Pacheco
Editor-in-Chief
pachecoi2@state.gov



Heidi Howland
Deputy Editor
howlandh@state.gov



Luis A. Jimenez, Jr.
Art Director
jimenezla@state.gov



Evelyn Heck
Editorial Intern
hecke@state.gov

State Magazine

2401 E Street NW, Room H232
Washington DC 20037

statemagazine@state.gov

State Magazine is published monthly, except bimonthly in July and August, by the Bureau of Human Resources at the U.S. Department of State. It is intended for information only and is not authority for official action. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of State. The editorial team reserves the right to select and edit all materials for publication.

For details on submitting articles to *State Magazine*, request guidelines by email at statemagazine@state.gov or download them from state.gov/statemag.

State Magazine does not purchase freelance material.

Deadlines

The submission deadline for the **December issue is October 20.**

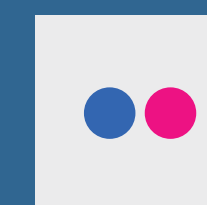
The deadline for the **January issue is November 20.**

Editorial Contributions

Unsolicited artwork and manuscripts are not accepted, and publisher assumes no responsibility for return or safety of unsolicited artwork, photographs, or manuscripts. Query letters may be addressed to the deputy editor or statemagazine@state.gov

Post of the Month maps are produced by the
Office of the Geographer and Global Issues

Office of the Inspector General Hotline: **1-800-409-9926**
oig.state.gov/hotline





Participants from the Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars celebrate the completion of a successful exchange program.
Photo by Evelyn Heck

By Evelyn Heck

Evelyn Heck served as an editorial intern at State Magazine.

[Return](#)

2018 SUSI for Secondary Educators celebrate successful exchange

Twenty teachers participating in the Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Secondary Educators visited the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, July 20, to share their exchange experience with program officers and celebrate the conclusion of a successful program. Hosted at universities and colleges across the United States, SUSIs for Scholars and Secondary Educators are five- to six-week academic programs for midcareer foreign scholars, secondary educators, faculty and practitioners, whose purpose is to strengthen curricula and improve how the United States is taught about in academic institutions abroad. During the program, participants engage in rigorous academic coursework and panel discussions, interact and establish networks with American teachers and scholars, meet with experts in their respective disciplines, visit civic institutions and explore the diversity and culture of the United States.

The secondary educators represented 20 countries from around the world. They spent four weeks at the Institute for Training and Development in Amherst, Mass., where they participated in academic lectures and engaged with the community through site visits and service opportunities. Lectures explored a diverse array of topics that ranged from U.S. history to media and politics to the practice of interpreting poetry. The intensive academic sessions were complemented with travel along the east coast, including visits to New York City, Harvard University, and out west to Bryce Canyon National Park, Salt Lake City and Las Vegas.

The program concluded in Washington, D.C., where participants met with SUSI Program Officer Macon Barrow to share feedback from their experiences and offer suggestions for the enhancement of future exchanges. The group expressed gratitude for a fulfilling and productive learning experience that enhanced their understanding of U.S. culture and academic curricula. Participants departed for home excited to implement projects they developed during the program and to share new insights and teaching skills with their communities. ■



The HR/EX/SDD team celebrates their win. *State Department Photo*

By Shekina "Ki" Magee

Shekina "Ki" Magee is the Agile coach for the Executive Office's Systems Development Division in the Bureau of Human Resources.

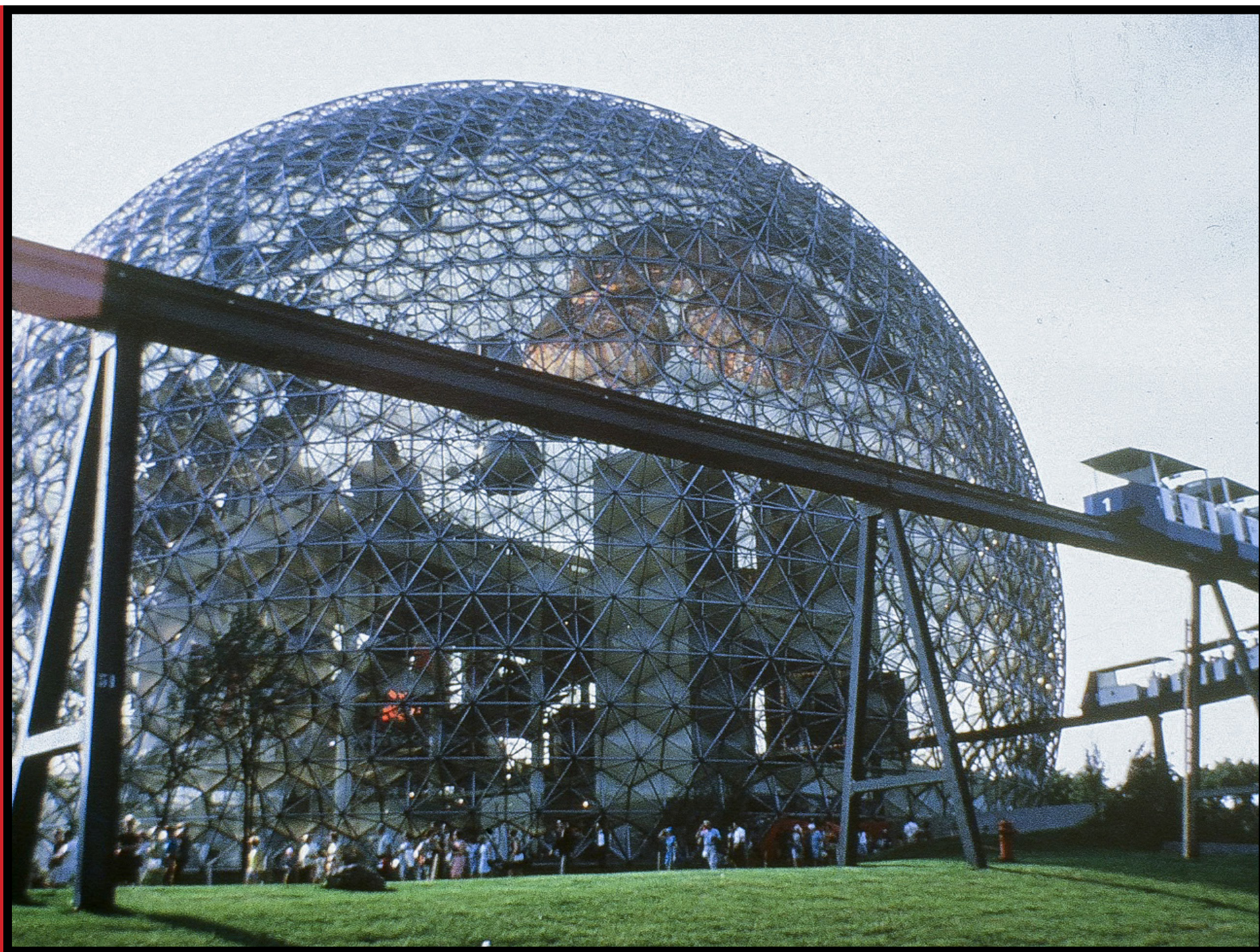
Human Resources team wins Department Agile challenge

A cross-functional development team in the Bureau of Human Resources Executive Office Systems Development Division (HR/EX/SDD) demonstrated their Agile and coding skills to win the first annual Great State Agile Challenge, July 25. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Office of the Chief Technology Officer, Systems Solutions Division, sponsored the event. More than 100 people and nine teams participated in the competition.

HR/EX Executive Director John Moyer has made Agile development one of his top priorities since assuming leadership of the office in January 2017. Agile development is an iterative software development approach where small teams work closely with their customers, resulting in frequent deliveries of defined functionality and allowing for corrections throughout the process. Moyer and SDD Division Chief Donald Bauer reconfigured SDD staff to include business analysts, a user experience user interface (UI/UX) specialist and an Agile coach.

While the Great State Agile Challenge was a one-day competition, the team's success was a year in the making. The team, led by HR Online Branch Chief Kenneth Smith, included members from four branches within SDD. The developers shared insights that could benefit teams and leaders implementing Agile approaches. "Agile methodology makes the software development process more accessible," stated program analyst Vladimir Mokrushin. BI developer Tim Dixon added, "I really enjoyed the competition and participating in an Agile project in a single day. It helped me to understand Agile concepts."

Feedback from evaluators was very positive. One of the designated product owners, Lue Yang, stated that the winning team "embodied the Agile spirit of the competition and was able to deliver more stories to the cloud than any other team competing." ■



In 1967 at the International and Universal Exposition, more than 9 million visitors rode the monorail through the 200-foot-tall geodesic dome.
Photo by Peter Chermayeff

By Joan Sinclair and
Maxime McVey-Beauchesne

Joan Sinclair was the public affairs officer at the U.S. Consulate General Montreal and currently serves in the Office of Overseas Citizen Services in Consular Affairs. Maxime McVey-Beauchesne was an intern majoring in communications at Université de Montréal.

↑ Return

Biosphere donation plaque strengthens bonds through public spaces

Traveling up the St. Lawrence River, it is impossible to miss the 200-foot-tall geodesic “Skybreak Bubble” located in the middle of Saint Helen’s Island. In 1967, Montreal hosted more than 50 million visitors from around the world during the International and Universal Exposition. Richard Buckminster Fuller, the lead architect who worked on putting the now iconic geodesic dome together, believed that the structure would be capable of “enclosing sufficient space for whole future communities to live in a benign physical microcosm.”

The U.S. Consulate General Montreal, the City of Montreal and the Biosphère Environment Museum unveiled a plaque, July 12, to commemorate the donation of what used to be the U.S. pavilion during the 1967 Expo. At the time, City Mayor Jean Drapeau envisioned the dome to be a place where thousands of people in the years to come could enjoy seeing “birds, animals and plant life of the North American continent, and a place where zoologists and conservationists can learn more about our wildlife.”

Fifty years later, U.S. Consul General Robert W. Thomas, Biosphere Director Jean Langlais and representative of the City of Montreal Magda Popeanu celebrated the friendship and bond that unite Canada and the United States by hanging a plaque commemorating the dome. The Biosphere has become more than what Mayor Drapeau envisioned at the time. Not only is it a part of the Montreal landscape, but since 1995, the dome has been a museum for young and old to learn about the environment.

The opening of a permanent exhibition space dedicated to U.S. content followed the plaque unveiling. This space represents a gift to the Canadian public and the thousands of people who will walk that entrance hall annually. ■



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo joins foreign ministers from ASEAN member nations for his first series of ministerial meetings in Singapore.
State Department photo

By Cain Harrelson

Cain Harrelson is deputy public affairs officer at Embassy Singapore.

[Return](#)

Secretary Pompeo emphasizes Indo-Pacific commitment in Singapore

Embassy Singapore hosted Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Aug. 3–4. The visit was a team effort, combining the talents of the U.S. Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta, Embassy Singapore, the Asia Pacific Media Hub in Manila and the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs in Washington, D.C. Months of preparation led to more than a dozen multilateral and bilateral engagements for Pompeo and his team of senior officials in just over 24 hours on the ground in Singapore.

Pompeo reiterated the United States' commitment to ASEAN and the region at important ministerial meetings on the Lower Mekong Initiative, U.S.-ASEAN, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum. He used these opportunities to emphasize the United States' leadership as a Pacific nation and the importance of U.S. partnerships with Southeast Asian nations, highlighting U.S. contributions to economic prosperity, peace and stability, and strong socio-cultural ties. Pompeo also announced nearly \$300 million in new funding to reinforce security cooperation throughout the Indo-Pacific.

In addition to multilateral engagements, Pompeo's visit was the perfect opportunity to reaffirm the United States' strong partnership with Singapore. Pompeo thanked Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong for hosting President Donald Trump's summit with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and congratulated Singapore on their chairmanship of ASEAN this year. Pompeo and Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan signed a memorandum of understanding to renew both countries' commitment to the U.S.-Singapore Third Country Training Program, which supports ASEAN efforts to strengthen sustainable development, connectivity and regional integration. Pompeo spoke to more than 70 local, regional and international journalists at a press availability. "This year we look forward to ASEAN's continued centrality in the Indo-Pacific region," stated Pompeo, "as we celebrate a fruitful U.S.-ASEAN strategic partnership." ■



A digital forensic expert examines a mobile device, seized during an investigation, for evidence of criminal activity.

State Department photo

By Angela French

Angela French is a public affairs specialist in the Diplomatic Security Service.

↑ Return

DSS cyber sleuths blend art and science to solve criminal cases

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month, but for the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), cybersecurity and investigations are a daily activity. Today, no law enforcement agency can carry out its investigative mission without some digital forensics capability, and DSS is no exception.

DSS has computer forensics analysts and experts who support DSS' criminal cases by collecting digital evidence, conducting online investigations and examining and processing digital media. Other experts assist with technical surveillance by providing devices, equipment installation and other needs to support DSS investigations. When requested, specialists advise DSS special agents on best practices for using the internet as an investigative tool as well as how to use digital evidence to strengthen their cases.

These cyber sleuths have supported a number of unique and sensitive cases. DSS forensic analysts assisted in the [espionage investigation](#) of former U.S. Department of State official Walter Kendall Myers, who was [convicted](#) of spying for Cuba. More recently, DSS computer forensic analysts and technical experts were instrumental during [Operation Cinderella Story](#), an investigation initiated and led by DSS that dismantled a transnational human trafficking network. Early on in the investigation, a forensics team recovered incriminating communications used by the criminals. After search warrants were executed, cyber sleuths collected and analyzed hundreds of thousands of digital media and data that were key pieces of evidence during the trials.

Forensics analysis is a blend of science and art, according to DSS Special Agent and Director of the Office of Cyber Threat and Investigations David Trosch. "The science part is technical competency; how to use specialized software, and examining devices and data," said Trosch. "The art component is the investigative aspect. A good analyst is inquisitive, tenacious, innovative and understands human psychology." ■



Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Carl Risch (left) presents San Francisco Passport Agency Director David Tyler with a commemorative plaque celebrating the agency's 100th anniversary.
San Francisco Passport Agency photo

By Sara Parham

Sara Parham is the fraud prevention manager at the San Francisco Passport Agency.

San Francisco Passport Agency celebrates 100 years of service

The San Francisco Passport Agency recently celebrated its centennial with a ceremony, Aug. 2. In 1918, the travel requirements for possessing a passport were growing, and demand for passport services on the west coast increased. Acting Secretary of State Frank Polk authorized the establishment of the San Francisco Passport Agency, and it opened Aug. 2, 1918, during President Woodrow Wilson's administration. Frank Bauskett arrived in San Francisco as the city's first passport agent with instructions from Washington to collect \$2 for each passport application, and send the fees and applications by registered mail to the Department of State daily. A citizen needed to have a legitimate reason for travel in order to obtain a passport.

The San Francisco Passport Agency has grown significantly during the past century to become the third busiest public counter passport agency in the nation. In fiscal year 2017, it interviewed more than 60,000 customers at its public counters and processed more than 240,000 passport applications. The agency serves the community in other ways as well, including helping victims of the recent wildfires at various disaster recovery centers. The agency continues to assist the people of northern California as the staff begins its next 100 years of public service. ■

[Return](#)

IRM Global Telecommunications Services

Division reaches the gold standard

By Debora Nagy, Betty Scott, Evan Thomas and Fletcher Mack

The Global Telecommunications Services (GTS) Division is small but mighty. Compared with its sister divisions in the Information Resource Management Operations Enterprise Network Management (IRM/OPS/ENM) directorate, GTS has the least amount of resources, yet has an immense mission to accomplish. GTS staff work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to ensure the mission is fulfilled—and does so with high levels of success.

One measure of its success is ISO 20K certification. For IT service providers and the International Standards Organization, ISO 20K certification, which was updated in 2012 to ISO/IEC 20000-2:2012, is considered the gold standard for IT service. GTS is the first division in ENM to attain this certification and lead the way for its sister divisions to follow. Gaining ISO 20K certification requires multiple in-depth internal audits. For GTS, an outside accredited auditor carried out three audits in two phases over five days for IT service. Reaching the gold standard for a service management system has been the culmination of more than two years of dedicated work by validating and recording processes with meticulous precision.

During the last 10 years, GTS has been committed to improving its processes and standards. The result has been a robust document management system, strong professional training and risk management programs, and an active review board. In addition, GTS has developed a successful problem management and incident management process. The organization has an established quality assurance and quality control team to monitor, review and improve processes, policies and procedures, and to support IRM's and ENM's culture of continual service improvement.

| Cont. | ▼



GTS management and support staff stand together on the SA-26 compound. Photo by Fletcher Mack

More than 6,300 incidents and service requests were resolved in 2017, exceeding service level agreements by 95 percent for incident response and service request response.

Another primary mission of GTS is to maintain and operate the Department's classified encryption network (ClassNet), supported by two core systems respectively at SA-26 in Beltsville, Md. and HST in Washington, D.C. More than 580 encryption devices are distributed worldwide to encrypt traffic at each location requiring secret network connectivity. The top secret (TS) encryption network has core devices that mirror the secret network and support more than 50 posts requiring TS network services. The GTS Network Service Center (NSC) provides technical support for these systems and customer outreach to posts, in addition to onsite operational and maintenance encryption assistance for 20 annexes in the National Capital Region. The NSC uses several network monitoring and management tools to perform remote management of the encryptors and real-time alert management to ensure 100 percent network availability for the user community. With the close coordination and assistance of the Information Programs Center, Information Management Officer and Communications Security manager teams, GTS has brought a positive impact on the network availability of classified services and connectivity, exceeding established metrics in the Department's service level agreements.

GTS also provides communications hub support and technical engineering expertise for several other government agencies. This includes the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service Program Office Regional Relay Facility, which provides network connectivity for more than 65 federal and foreign affairs agencies overseas. | *Cont.* | ▼



Catherine Robinson (left) and Stephanie Williams work on the document control plan.
Photo by Fletcher Mack



GTS Division Chief Debora Nagy and GTS Program Manager Michael Knight prepare for a weekly staff meeting.
Photo by Fletcher Mack


GTS has established a robust and extensive power management infrastructure, designed and implemented by the staff, which has developed over the last decade to keep up with technological improvements. One tangible result of this infrastructure is the reliability of consistent power in the GTS NSC at SA-26. The GTS NSC has not experienced a lights-out condition in more than 10 years, even during scheduled building power outages, thus maintaining uninterrupted communications for the Department. The foresight in acquiring and installing this tertiary power management system has allowed GTS to provide constant core network connectivity to customers.

GTS attributes its success to commitment, hard work and dedicated staff. In addition, the division implements industry best practices in IT service delivery for efficiency and effectiveness.

■ *Debora Nagy is the division chief of GTS. Betty Scott is the office manager of communications security. Evan Thomas is branch chief of engineering. Fletcher Mack is the operations manager of GTS Network Service Center.*



The GTS operations management support team (from left: Ismaila Matti, Robert White, Hiram Soto-Morales and Fletcher Mack) support the 24/7 shift workers and provide subject matter expertise and services. *Photo by Fletcher Mack*



Embassy Air CH-46 and UH-1 support the MASCAL drill.

SOLIDIFYING PARTNERSHIPS

Embassy Kabul, NATO forces and local personnel participate in emergency exercise

By Stephen D'Alessio Photos By Byron Garcia

The smoke clears, revealing the might and mettle of the Embassy Kabul staff, NATO forces and North Kabul International Airport (NKIA) personnel. Together, these professionals participated in a joint Mass Casualty Drill, May 25, at Camp Sullivan in Kabul, Afghanistan, solidifying their partnerships through one of the most complex tests of their capabilities to date. | *Cont.* | ▼

The drill offered an opportunity for different units to demonstrate knowledge and hone their skills. Participating in the drill were Kabul Embassy Security Forces (KESF), medical personnel from both Camp Sullivan and NKIA Role 2 Hospital, aircraft rescue and firefighting, and search and rescue (SAR) pilots and medics. Also participating behind the scenes were members of the embassy's Tactical Operations Centers, who orchestrated the evacuation of simulated casualties through close communication and tightly managed standard operating procedures.

The drill began in a flash, as observer controllers from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul (USEK) Regional Security Office Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) simulated indirect fire by popping smoke grenades on opposite ends of the camp. Role players participating in the drill posted themselves around the camp, bearing simulated gruesome lacerations, tension pneumothorax injuries or other difficult-to-treat afflictions. SAR medics artfully placed realistic-looking wounds and fake blood on the simulated victims, and role players lay moaning on the ground or feigning unconsciousness. The duck and cover alarm sounded, echoing throughout the camp, cueing the Emergency Response Team (ERT) to don their emergency protective equipment and jump into their armored vehicles to assess the scene.

Within moments, the ERT approached the areas of the camp where the wounded were lying, made a quick assessment and jumped into action. A few ERT members set up perimeter security around their other team members who carried the wounded role players to shelter-in-place bunkers to assess and treat their wounds.

“The first responders knew what to do; they got me to a bunker and were good at identifying the priority wounds and got me back to the clinic,” said Assistant Regional Security Officer Brian Sever, who volunteered to be a mock casualty for the drill.

An ERT member cinched up a tourniquet on one of the role players and performed a systematic routine of field tactical medical care. He carefully managed any mass hemorrhages, checked the airways and respiratory systems of the wounded, and assessed circulation and hypothermia for his patients. The role players were carried on stretchers to the ERT vehicles and transported to the medical clinic, where the next phase of the drill took place.



ERT members treat casualties during a complex staged drill.

| *Cont.* | ▼



NKIA Role 2 Hospital members treat casualties during a MASCAL drill.



ERT members prepare casualties to be evacuated.

As the patients were carried into the clinic, a small group of tactical medical professionals began to administer care. The role players were bandaged and lying on gurneys, triaged by the medical personnel who prepared them for a mass medical evacuation.

An unsuspecting onlooker might not realize that the events were just an exercise, except for the observer-controllers (OC) in orange vests with clipboards. One of the OCs, John McCarley, took notes on the first-responder methods. McCarley and his fellow SAR paramedics are some of the mission's most highly trained first responders. With more than a decade of special operations experience as a member of the Air Force Pararescue Team, McCarley was able to assess the first responders as they whisked to action.

“There are so many different entities involved with these drills,” explained McCarley. “So what I look for is communication between the units and how well they coalesce. We have State Department security personnel, civilian contractors, local guards and others working together in these camps. Drills like this are great because these groups really don’t get to work closely together until something big happens.”

One such major event occurred September 2017 during a terrorist attack on Camp Sullivan and nearby Hamid Karzai International Airport. During the prolonged attack, Camp Sullivan security forces faced attackers who used explosives and rocket-propelled grenades against the guards.

“It’s drills like these that enable the teams to test their readiness and capabilities,” said McCarley. “Their response and readiness were on

point. It may be because they already have the real-life experience. But they're not going to know what their deficiencies are until they work through the steps together, with each individual team. And this isn't evident without these drills."

The RSO Emergency Planning Unit uses creativity and past experience to elevate the readiness of these security units under chief of mission authority. They work closely with the Embassy Kabul Fire Department, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, SAR, KESF and other entities under COM to support security operations. Some of the drills are as simple as sounding the alarm and alerting all agents to gear up and respond; others are complex, where ground and aviation assets coalesce to test themselves across the breadth of their capabilities and experience. Day-to-day operations at Embassy Kabul need to operate like clockwork, and members of the EPU know that complacency can be a killer.

"The EPU is a new unit," said EPU supervisor Stefan Merino. "And it's special because of our agents' ingenuity and ability to come up with new and innovative drills to counter emerging threats."

During the drill, SAR helicopters landed on the helicopter landing zone (HLZ), dropping off two SAR paramedics to assess the overall situation and status of the patients. As it would in a real situation, another SAR helicopter scouted the area above, providing security for the paramedics below who prepared for the medical evacuation (MEDEVAC). The paramedics performed as trained and within their stringent timeframes, to the satisfaction of the agents in the EPU. The agents strive not only to conduct the routine drills that prove the effectiveness of their security operations, but also to push the limits of their capabilities in order to illuminate unknown issues.

The patients were brought to the HLZ and loaded aboard the MEDEVAC helicopter for the ride to NKIA Role 2 Hospital, where the final and most turbulent part of the drill was about to take place. Upon touching down at the airfield, an OC announced that the MEDEVAC helicopter had notionally gone down. Aircraft rescue and firefighting immediately responded, rescuing the patients from the helicopter and rushing them to the nearby clinic.

With a simulated helicopter crash and simulated severely wounded personnel, and the continuous cacophony of radio communication between tactical operations centers all over the area of operations, the exercise truly cemented the partnerships and interoperability of all Embassy Kabul, NATO forces and NKIA units in Kabul, instilling confidence in the people who rely on them.

■ *Stephen D'Alessio is an assistant regional security officer at Embassy Kabul.*

Khartoum

Strengthening the bridge between the Middle East and Africa

Story by Keith Hughes

Opening photo: A blue sky highlights the yellow corner of the Karima Nubian Guest House in Karima, Sudan.

Photo by Mark Fischer

Khartoum is a young city nestled in an ancient land watered by the Nile Rivers. Carts pulled by donkeys weave in and out of traffic crowded with white SUVs. Walking on Khartoum's streets, flanked by both traditional markets and modern malls, one is confronted by the fact that Sudan is at the cross-roads of old and new. Similarly, Sudanese and American attitudes toward the nations' bilateral relations are in transition from an older regime to a newer one.

Not many years ago, officers working in the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum could not gain access to government ministries, or to much of the country. Now, officers at Embassy Khartoum keep a busy schedule meeting counterparts in government, business and civil society, laying the foundation for a new era of engagement with Sudan.

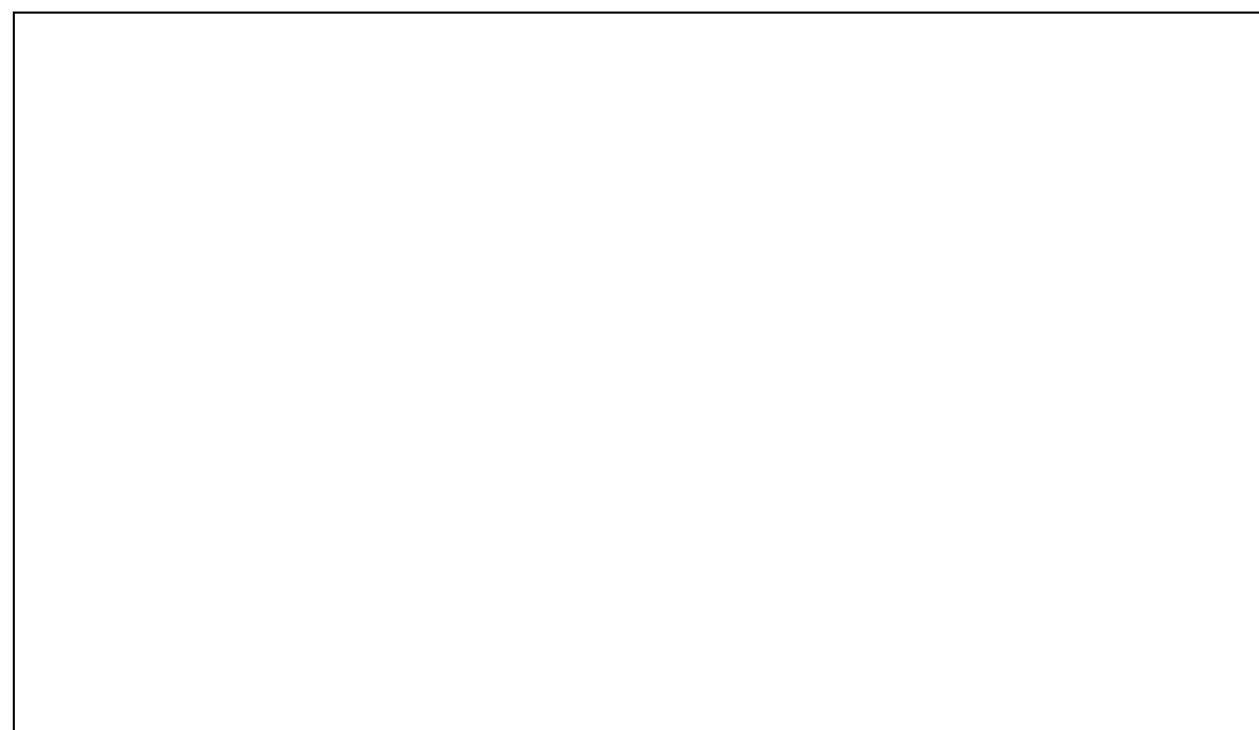
In 2016, Embassy Khartoum and the then Office of the U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan began a several-year process encouraging the government of Sudan to improve access to humanitarian aid, fight terrorism and end interference in South Sudan. The Sudanese responded with several positive actions. The government opened humanitarian access throughout the country, maintained a durable cessation of hostilities in Darfur and the Two Areas (Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile State), ceased support to South Sudanese rebel movements and cooperated on threats to regional security. The embassy worked with the government of Sudan to ensure continued progress toward these goals, and the effort resulted in unprecedented access. Dialogue and cooperation on security, defense, education, culture and economics bloomed. | *Cont.* | ▼



AFRICOM Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Engagement and Ambassador Alexander M. Laskaris (left) meets Sudanese Military Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Emadeddin Adawi.

Photo by Alsanosi Ahmed

Sketches of Sudan from an American Perspective



[Click to watch video](#)

|||||



Public Affairs Officer Keith Hughes (left) shares a joke at a Ramadan iftar organized by a local Sufi cleric for embassy volunteers.

Photo by Alsanosi Ahmed Ali

Mission employees also hosted numerous Washington, D.C. visitors to communicate clearly to decision-makers areas where Sudan had made progress and where it had not. To convey the situation in Sudan took an all-of-embassy effort for each visit. The effort resulted in a changed perspective of Sudan; each visitor learned that Sudan was not a cipher, but a nation with potential to be a partner in both trade and stability management in the region.

The prolonged effort resulted in the lifting of broad economic sanctions on Sudan that had stood for two decades, on Oct. 12, 2017. That executive action, through the formal culmination of the Five Track Engagement Plan, put the U.S. and Sudan on a hard course to improved relations. The executive action marked not only the end of sanctions, but also the beginning of a new era in Sudan and the region. With Embassy Khartoum at the forefront of building relations, it is an exciting time to serve in Khartoum and help to create meaningful impact.

In the months following the lifting of sanctions, Khartoum became a popular destination for high-level visitors, a trend that continues. In November 2017, Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan organized a trip to Sudan and praised the work Embassy Khartoum had done leading to the lifting of sanctions. His public remarks set the course for the two nations to work together and create markers for Sudan to strive toward removing the remaining sanctions. Markers include upholding human rights, cutting ties with North Korea and improving religious tolerance. | *Cont.* | ▼



Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan talks to media following his keynote speech, setting the path for future relations between Khartoum and the U.S. *Photo by Tilal Mohammed*



Embassy staff share a Ramadan iftar in the street. (From left) Amaar Abbas, Political Officer Brian McGrath and POL/ECON Chief Wallace Bain. *Photo by Alsanosi Ahmed Ali*

The vast countryside of Sudan does not seem to be impacted by sanctions. Its expanse, beauty and history beckon embassy employees to explore it. The Nile River in northern Sudan nurtured the ancient Kingdom of Kush, long-lived enough to rival the Pharaohs of Egypt and, millennia later, concern the mighty Roman Empire. More pyramids call to be explored here than in Egypt; being here, one can imagine the wealth that the Kushite Kingdoms drew to themselves and exported to eager customers living in a vast region spanning the Middle East and much of Africa.

At the end of a day exploring antiquities, officers who venture to these sites frequently camp in the desert where the undiminished Milky Way can cast a shadow. Others prefer to spend a night or two “glamping” at the well-appointed Italian camp, minutes from five discovered archaeological sites. Eras have come and gone in this landscape, and there are still remnants of the ancient Kushite culture to uncover.

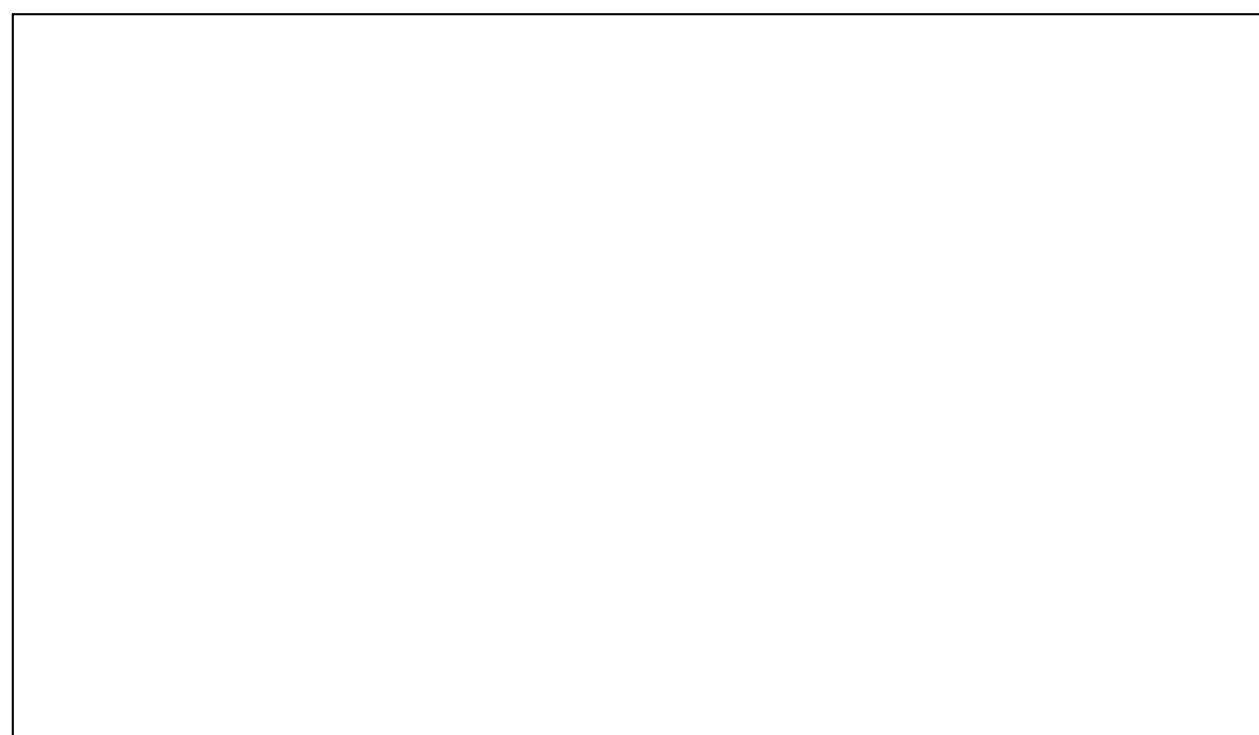
Though sanctions do not seem to have touched Sudan’s large land area and long cultural heritage, their lifting gave Embassy Khartoum an opportunity to expand outreach to key interlocutors outside of Khartoum. Port Sudan, a city on the Red Sea, is in many ways Sudan’s lifeline to the world. Prior to the sanctions lifting, officers visiting Port Sudan were limited in their movements and rarely had substantive meetings. Now, political and economic officers have robust relationships with business groups, the Red Sea State Governor’s office and a growing list of partners in the east of the country.

The removal of sanctions and improved relationships led to an increase in cultural exchanges. Soon after the executive order was signed, a veteran jazz trio from New York visited Sudan for a nationwide tour. Though unforeseen difficulties prevented the band from traveling everywhere on their itinerary, their deep appreciation for the rhythms of Africa and Sudan inspired them to learn a local song and play it to their Sudanese audiences. The Sudanese have immense pride in their culture, which was shown in their reaction to the song. | *Cont.* | ▼



Nubian pyramids were built by the rulers of the ancient Kushite kingdoms. *Photo by Caroline Schneider*

Ahab Makan Music Video



Embassy Khartoum shared the band's recording of the song via Facebook, with the post garnering an unprecedented quarter of a million views.

The improved access to the interior of Sudan allowed Embassy Khartoum officers to travel throughout the country and engage with Sudanese during the holy month of Ramadan. This face-to-face engagement gave Khartoum-based officers the chance to better understand the diverse country and the daily lives of its people. Embassy Khartoum is enjoying great momentum from the lifting of sanctions and the increased engagement with the Sudanese people, creating unique opportunities for those who serve at this post. | *Cont.* | ▼

What lies ahead is the continual improvement of bilateral relations, indicated by the warming trend in U.S.-Sudan ties. In the coming months, with the help of the Institute for International Education, Sudan will host dozens of U.S. university representatives, a sign of positive change and exchange of ideas. From a relationship defined by sanctions to one of mutually beneficial communication and exchange, the U.S. and Sudan are moving toward a partnership working together on securing African stability and growth. Real progress, through fundamental diplomatic engagement, is bringing Sudan closer to peace inside its borders and with its neighbors.

■ *Keith Hughes is the public affairs officer at Embassy Khartoum.*



Chargé d'Affaires Steven Koutsis distributes parcels in an annual embassy food drive tradition that distributes food to neighboring families during the month of Ramadan.

Photo by Tilal Mohammed

Below: The Corinthia Hotel Khartoum towers over the Tuti bridge in central Khartoum.



At a Glance Sudan

Capital:
Khartoum

Government Type:
presidential republic

Area:
1,861,484 sq km

Population:
37,345,935 (July 2017 est.)

Religions:
Sunni Muslim, small Christian minority

Ethnic groups:
Sudanese Arab (approximately 70%), Fur, Beja, Nuba, Fallata

Languages:
Arabic (official), English (official), Nubian, Ta Bedawie, Fur

Exports (commodities):
gold; oil and petroleum products; cotton, sesame, livestock, peanuts, gum Arabic, sugar



Export partners:
UAE 55.5%, Egypt 14.7%, Saudi Arabia 8.8% (2017)

Imports (commodities):
foodstuffs, manufactured goods, refinery and transport equipment, medicines, chemicals, textiles, wheat

Import partners:
UAE 12.7%, Egypt 10.6%, India 10.5%, Turkey 10.2%, Japan 7.6%, Saudi Arabia 6%, Germany 4.6% (2017)

Currency:
Sudanese pounds

Internet country code: .sd



Map produced by the Office of the Geographer and Global Issues



COMBATING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs takes global action

BY ELIZABETH LIU

In 2016, 42,000 Americans died of an overdose involving synthetic opioids—a nearly 640 percent increase from 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Families across the United States, including within the Department of State community, have been affected by the opioid crisis, as have those in Southwest Asia, Eastern Europe and an ever-expanding list of countries. The women and men of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) are committed to combating this crisis that deeply and personally affects Americans and people around the world. | *Cont.* | ▼

The growing availability of synthetic drugs—those produced from chemicals, rather than plants—is a major factor in today's opioid crisis. Drug traffickers have learned to skirt international and domestic government controls on deadly drugs like fentanyl by slightly modifying the drugs' chemical composition. These criminals are developing these new synthetic drugs faster than the international community has been able to place controls on them.

Synthetic drugs are harder to detect, monitor and disrupt. Unlike plant-based drugs, synthetics do not require large tracts of land and instead can be produced virtually anywhere using widely available industrial chemicals. Regardless of location, buyers can use the internet to order illegal drugs. Because they are exceptionally potent, synthetics can be shipped in very small quantities through the mail. Just one kilogram of fentanyl costs approximately \$5,000 to make, but can be cut into thousands of doses and sold for up to \$10 million dollars.

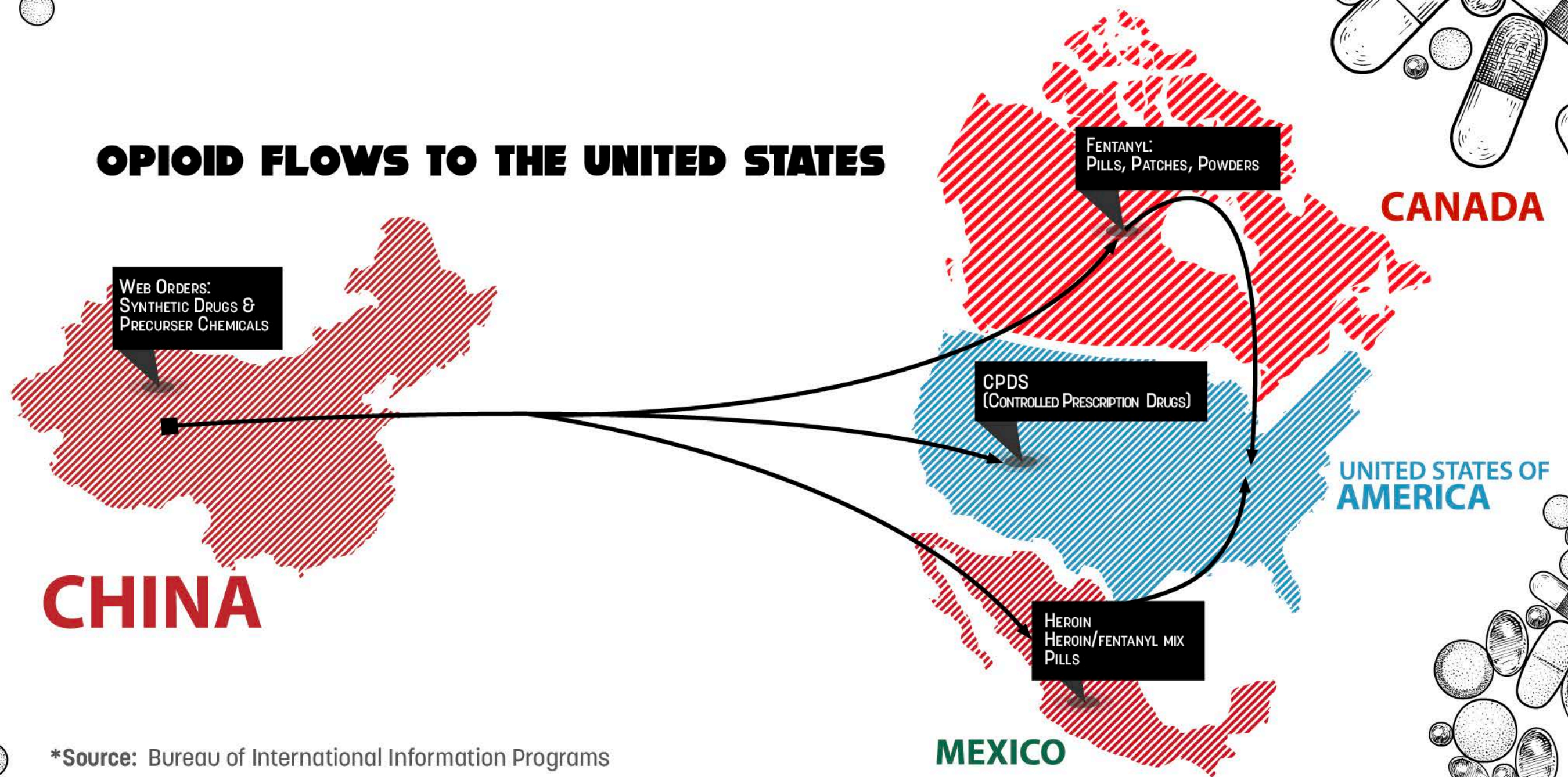
The problem may seem daunting, but INL—working alongside partners in the Department, as well as internationally and at the federal, state and local levels—is adapting and attacking the problem logistically and from many different angles.

The best place to cut off the trade is at its source, and, for most synthetic opioids in the U.S. market, the source is China. In November 2017, President Trump and President Xi agreed to deepen bilateral counternarcotics cooperation. This cooperation has yielded concrete results. Since 2015, China has domestically controlled 175 deadly synthetic substances, including carfentanil, an elephant tranquilizer 10,000 times more potent than morphine. | *Cont.* | ▼



Deputy Assistant Secretary James Walsh votes to internationally control carfentanil, a highly potent synthetic opioid. *Photo by Wolfgang Picot*

OPIOID FLOWS TO THE UNITED STATES



*Source: Bureau of International Information Programs

Chinese controls directly reduced the availability of these substances in American communities. INL is encouraging China to crack down on traffickers and broaden its domestic legislation to control all fentanyl-like substances as a “class,” as opposed to singular controls on each chemical variant. Such a move would give Chinese law enforcement more tools to stop the production and shipment of these drugs. INL also supports regular expert exchanges with China in the areas of forensics, law enforcement and drug treatment. These exchanges not only build closer relationships between American and Chinese counterparts, but they also allow the two countries to share important information on trends, tools and approaches.

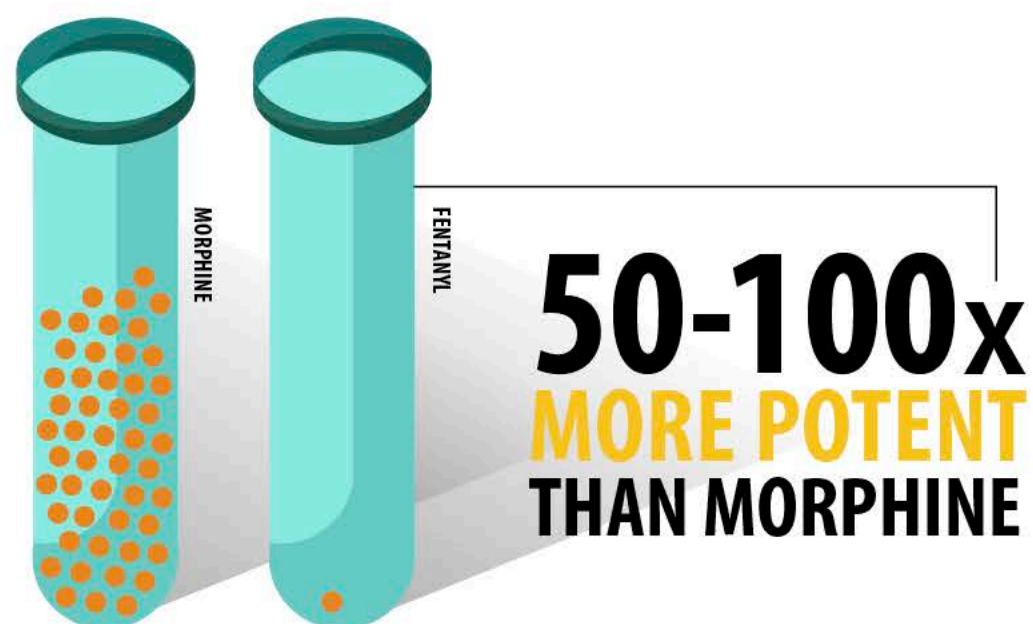


U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his delegation participate in a bilateral meeting with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing, June 14. *State Department photo*

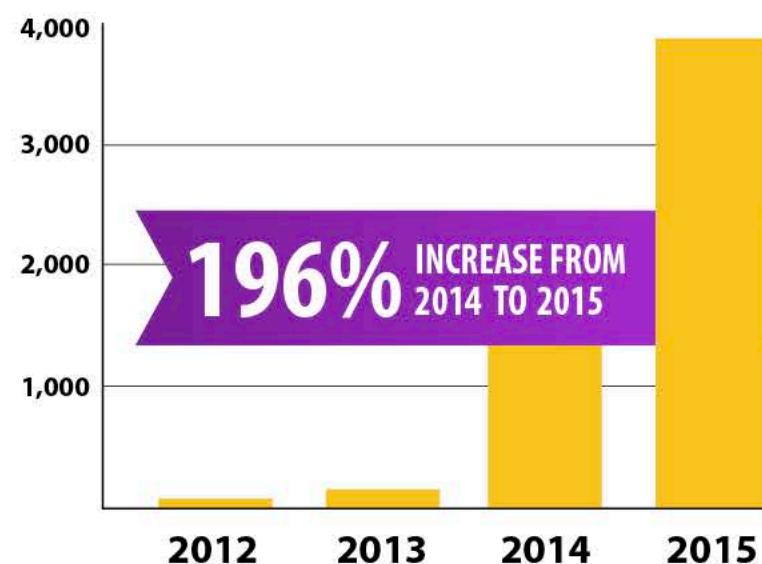
Although the majority of illicit synthetic opioids entering the United States are shipped in small quantities from China, they also enter through the U.S. southern border. More than 90 percent of heroin used in the United States is produced in Mexico. The United States and Mexico are partnering to dismantle the transnational criminal organizations that traffic heroin, synthetics and other drugs. Through security cooperation under the Merida Initiative, INL is building Mexico’s capacity to eradicate opium poppy crops, reduce illicit drug production, increase illicit drug interdictions, bring drug traffickers to justice and seize traffickers’ illicit revenue. Since 2016, Mexican officials trained by the U.S. have dismantled more than 300 clandestine drug labs. | *Cont.* | ▼

FENTANYL: Overdoses On The Rise

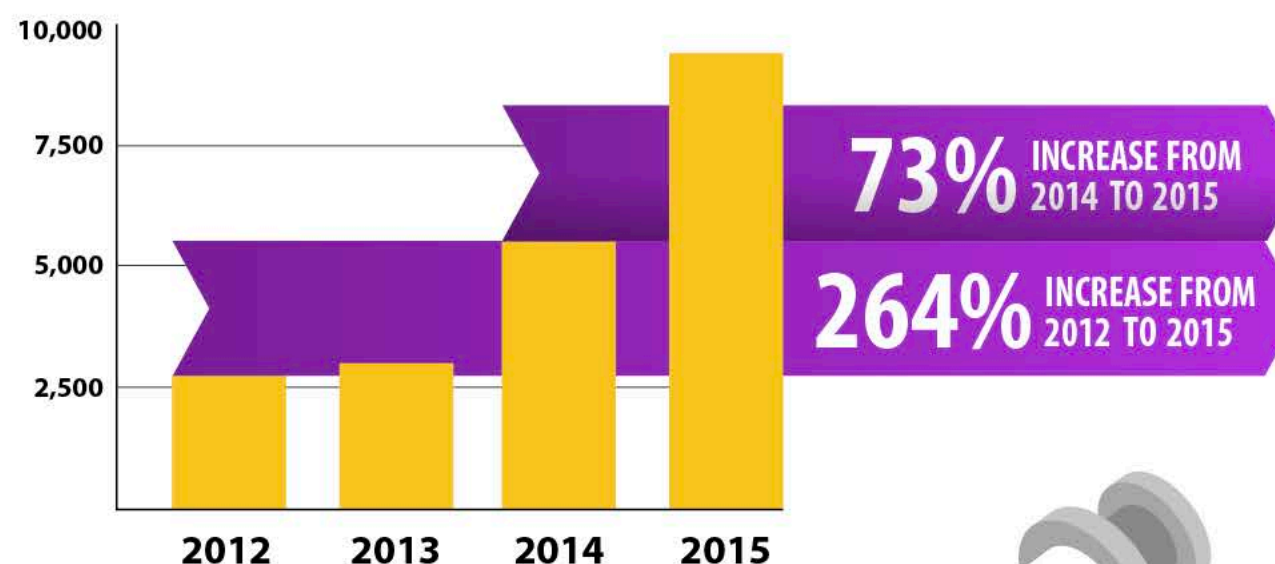
Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. **Illicitly manufactured fentanyl** is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.*



Ohio Drug Submissions Testing Positive for Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl

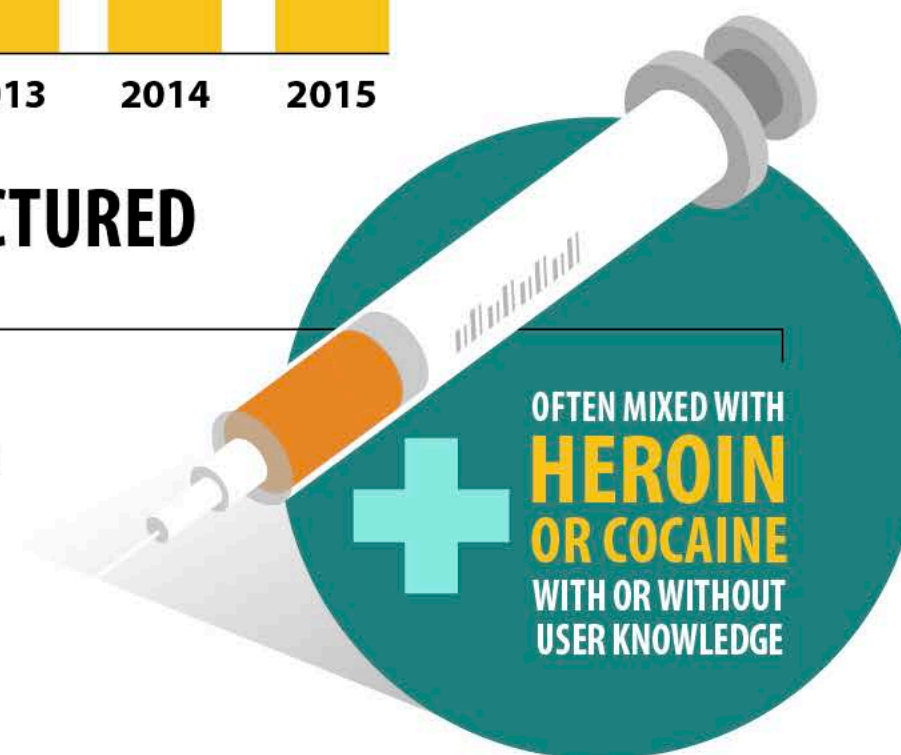


SYNTHETIC OPIOID DEATHS ACROSS THE U.S.



ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL

Although **prescription rates** have fallen, **overdoses associated with fentanyl** have risen dramatically, contributing to a sharp spike in synthetic opioid deaths.



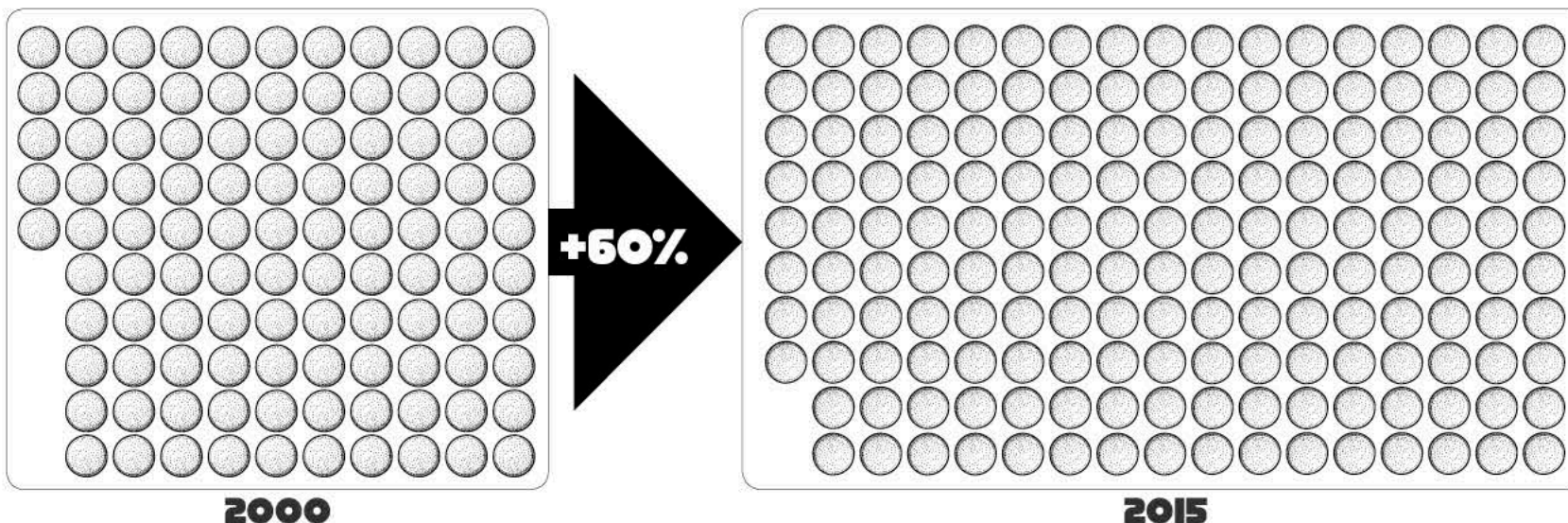
*According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Global deaths

directly caused by the use of drugs have been increasing

105,000 DEATHS

168,000 DEATHS



Source: UNODC analysis based on WHO, Disease burden and mortality estimates, Global Health Estimates 2015 deaths by cause, age, sex, by country and by region, 2000-2015.

INL has also provided inspection equipment and more than 500 detection dogs to Mexican agencies. In partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, INL sponsored training for Mexican canine and handler teams to safely detect fentanyl. In one case, the canines detected 1,500 fentanyl-laced pills hidden inside shoes destined for the United States. Each pill is potentially lethal, so the canines likely saved American lives.

Because synthetic drugs can be produced anywhere, INL is building awareness, support and capacities for global responses. The Bureau of International Organization Affairs and the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Vienna (UNVIE) are essential partners in these efforts. INL and UNVIE are working together to increase the number and rate of international controls of potentially dangerous substances. In 2018, thanks to U.S. advocacy, United Nations member states unanimously agreed to require countries worldwide to regulate carfentanil, as well as five other fentanyl-related compounds and six other synthetic substances. The controls will severely reduce availability of these substances for criminal purposes.

| Cont. | ▼

Likewise, INL is using foreign assistance to build partner capacities around the world. By supporting real-time information sharing among law enforcement and forensic officials, INL is improving the detection and tracking of synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals. Additionally, INL is training law enforcement and regulatory and forensic officials to put controls in place and identify and detect substances in order to disrupt illicit markets. To address new threats posed by online sales and international shipping, INL is expanding training to help foreign law enforcement partners to investigate, prosecute and dismantle online drug vendors. INL is also working to expand global capacity to interdict synthetic drugs trafficked through the mail and express consignment shipping.

INL recognizes that it is not just American families who suffer as a result of the opioid crisis and therefore is increasing access to quality drug treatment and prevention services overseas. This work is a crucial piece of a balanced approach to the opioid crisis. By providing evidence-based prevention, treatment and recovery support, INL's demand reduction programs help shrink the international market for illicit drugs. For example, after an INL-sponsored treatment training in Vietnam, 73 percent of the treated participants remained drug-free six months later, representing hundreds of people no longer exploitable by drug traffickers as a revenue source. Lessons learned through these programs overseas are shared with U.S. prevention and treatment experts to improve the quality of prevention and treatment in America.

The Department of State has a critical role to play in alleviating a crisis that deeply affects Americans and people around the world. Every day, the men and women of INL are working diligently to keep up with the dynamic threats faced, and are helping to equip the international community to effectively combat the global opioid crisis.

■ *Elizabeth Liu is a public affairs officer in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.*



A police officer stands alert with an INL-donated canine at a Federal Police Canine Donation event.

Photo by Michaela Newnham



PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Embassy Port of Spain leads next generation of CVE work

By Michael Barrera, Mignon Cardentey and AJ Jagelski

When one thinks of the twin island nation of Trinidad and Tobago, just 7 nautical miles from the northeast coast of Venezuela, thoughts drift to the vibrant sights and sounds of Carnival, the melodies of calypso and green mountain scapes jutting out over the blue Caribbean Sea. With its laid back island atmosphere, it is hardly the place one would identify as an international terrorist recruitment hub. However, Trinidad and Tobago holds the unenviable distinction of being the highest per capita recruitment center of foreign terrorist fighters in the Western Hemisphere. With a total population of 1.3 million, the number of people from Trinidad and Tobago who have traveled to Iraq and Syria to join ISIL is disproportionately large. The government of Trinidad and Tobago (GoTT) estimates the number is between 130 and 160.

This epidemic caught the island nation by surprise. While Trinidad and Tobago faced extremism threats in the past, such as during the 1990 coup attempt, the current threat was not fully understood, local research was minimal and countering violent extremism (CVE) efforts were absent.

Then, a security threat a week before Carnival in February 2018, along with the U.S. Embassy in Port of Spain's active engagement on CVE, encouraged the GoTT to proactively partner with the U.S. Embassy and other international organizations to develop a whole-of-society approach to deal with those susceptible to radicalization. | *Cont.* | ▼



Assistant Deputy Chief of Mission Dexter Payne, Deputy Public Affairs Officer Michael Barrera, Public Affairs Officer AJ Jagelski and Chaguanas Mayor Gopaul Boodhan walk to support peace in a violent extremist hot spot. *Photo by Charleen Thomas*

Prior to the Carnival threat, the U.S. Embassy in Port of Spain had begun engaging with the Global Engagement Center (GEC), the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT), the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations and the Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs (R) to address the rising threat of radicalization. At the center of these efforts is Embassy Port of Spain's dynamic campaign to combat terrorism recruitment, known as the SafeCommuniTT Initiative. Chargé d'Affaires John McIntyre described the campaign as "the next generation of CVE work and model for confronting post-Caliphate ISIS recruitment by leveraging both Public Affairs Section (PAS) and Department of Defense (DOD) resources." Discussing the initiative, Irfan Saeed, director of the Office of Countering Violent Extremism in CT, stated, "Our public affairs colleagues remain at the forefront of State's global CVE efforts, and Mission Port of Spain is a leader among our embassies and consulates, providing a roadmap for others."

The SafeCommuniTT Initiative seeks to empower partnerships between former convicts, religious leaders, government institutions, academia, civil society organizations, youth and the private sector to promote common shared solutions to counter violent extremism. It is composed of a dynamic three-phase strategy:

1. Create a network of key influencers and credible messengers.
2. Transform this group into CVE advocates reaching at-risk populations through training and opportunities.
3. Leverage resources to support this coalition's efforts against extremist recruitment.

The strategy is executed by the CVE working group, which is chaired by the deputy chief of mission. PAS leads CVE efforts for the embassy and coordinates with Department of Defense partners, the Military Information Support Team (MIST) and the Civil Affairs (CA) team to implement programs in the field. To further accomplish CVE objectives, McIntyre lobbied for a first-in-cone position to serve as the deputy public affairs officer (DPAO). Today, 60 percent of the DPAO's position in Port of Spain is dedicated to CVE engagement. | *Cont.* | ▼

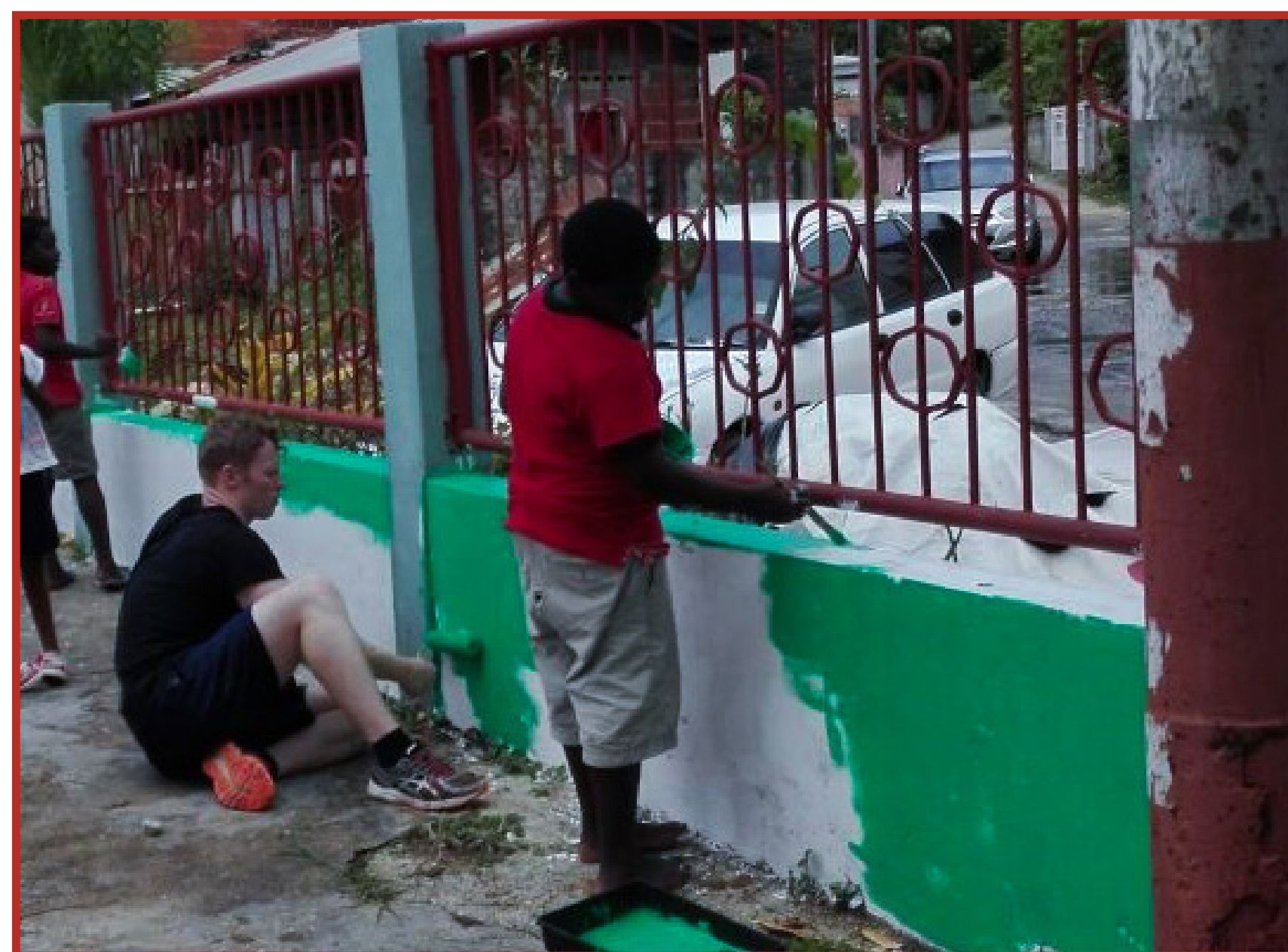


Deputy Public Affairs Officer Michael Barrera engages with members of a local mosque. *Department of Defense photo*

The unfaltering collaboration between the Department of State and DOD is key to the SafeCommuniTT Initiative's success. Regular communication and sharing of resources, strategies and contacts have helped strengthen a three-pronged unit, comprising PAS, CA and MIST, that works in unison to select, equip and engage local stakeholders and at-risk populations to counter radicalization. What makes this partnership effective is the diversity in expertise and resources. MIST has messaging, survey and evaluation expertise; CA uses community mapping tools to identify partners and opportunities, resulting in rapid deployment of impactful projects. PAS leverages its full range of PD programs, grants and long-term presence to provide continuity of engagement and ensure efforts are synchronized, sustained and aligned with policy priorities.

During months of relationship building with local community members in religious centers, at-risk neighborhoods, prisons and government offices, the CVE working group identified and vetted exemplary individuals based on their dedication to community service and their interest in leading CVE efforts in country. During the search, the CVE team reached some of the most radicalized areas in the country and created opportunities and contacts to advance U.S. interests where none existed before. The CVE team selected more than 80 individuals, from senators to former convicts to prominent musicians to religious leaders. The SafeCommuniTT network began to take shape.

With influential leaders and credible messengers identified, Embassy Port of Spain began convening and training the CVE coalition. Following the GEC's Citizen Narrative Campaign approach, 30 stakeholders were brought together for a three-day workshop about creating credible messaging campaigns to combat radicalization. Next, with R funding, PAS sent 40 participants—representing youth voices, civil society, academia and government—on exchanges to the United States to learn CVE best practices. In country, PAS, working with the Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP), sponsored a CVE expert for a weeklong visit to Trinidad to raise awareness about ISIS and violent extremism tactics. The embassy also brought the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center to conduct a training of trainers workshop known as the Community Awareness Briefing (CAB), a one-hour presentation designed to get communities talking about the risk and about warning signs of radicalization among youth. The CAB method is used by the Department of Homeland Security in communities throughout the United States, but Trinidad and Tobago marks the program's first use internationally. | *Cont.* | ▼



A Civil Affairs team member and children from Rock City paint a wall as part of a park refurbishment project.

Department of Defense photo

During each initiative, PAS focused on community building within the CVE coalition. After-hour discussions were encouraged during workshops, and special emphasis was placed on team building. As a result, the CVE coalition began to send WhatsApp messages to offer support, share information, combine efforts, create synergies and keep CVE messaging initiatives fresh. Participation by MIST, CA and PAS at stakeholder events, rallies and meetings added gravitas and ensured energy levels remained high. The Embassy Port of Spain's participation amplified U.S. government support and encouraged media engagement and broader reach. The result was a motivated, capable and passionate SafeCommuniTT campaign, with trained coalition members energized to champion CVE work on a large, diverse scale.

Preliminary studies and interviews by PAS, MIST and GEC revealed a number of drivers behind the high number of terrorist fighters who traveled to the Middle East from Trinidad and Tobago. While many fighters traveled for ideological reasons or unresolved trauma, many simply traveled for opportunity, including economic gain, promise of a spouse, a sense of belonging or adventure. A variety of projects funded by the U.S. Embassy targeted these distinct drivers. These diverse projects include spoken word platforms, social media campaigns, counseling and mentoring for trauma victims, playground renovations, public service announcements, music videos and skill building programs for youth in prison. | *Cont.* | ▼



Global Engagement Center Program Analyst Kristina Ryan and Public Affairs Officer AJ Jagelski discuss messaging campaigns with stakeholders at the SafeCommuniTT workshop in Tobago. *Photo by Charleen Thomas*



Chargé d'Affaires John McIntyre speaks with Roundtable member Sarajudeen Mohammed at the embassy iftar during Ramadan. *Photo by Gabriel Punch*



Civil Affairs team members coach children during a sports day event in an at-risk community.

Photo by Charleen Thomas



Deputy Public Affairs Officer Michael Barrera shares a lighter moment with Community Hearts and Minds police officers.

Photo by Charleen Thomas

Going forward, the embassy will fund projects providing opportunity through entrepreneurship, sports, the arts and technology.

In June, the embassy convened a conference bringing together its entire network of CVE advocates to share insights with high-level GoTT decision-makers, private sector representatives and the diplomatic donor community. As a result of these inclusive partnerships and the SafeCommuniTT campaign, the GoTT recently established its first interministerial counterterrorism committee and unanimously passed anti-terrorism legislation in July, reflecting a change in the government's perspective and clear acknowledgement that threats exist from both returning fighters and homegrown attacks. In the coming months, PAS will use its chairmanship of the diplomatic community CVE group to ensure greater coordination of violent extremism prevention and will support GoTT's nascent CVE subcommittee by helping it partner with credible voices and influencers in the embassy's network. These dynamic accomplishments will continue as the SafeCommuniTT campaign expands, enhancing security for both U.S. and Trinbagonian citizens.

■ *Michael Barrera is the deputy public affairs officer at Embassy Port of Spain. Mignon Cardentey is the public diplomacy desk officer for the Caribbean and Western Hemisphere. AJ Jagelski is the public affairs officer for Embassy Port of Spain.*



Randy W. Berry - U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Randy W. Berry (SFS) of Colorado is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. A diplomat for 25 years, he currently serves as deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Previously, he served as the Department's special envoy for the human rights of LGBTI persons. Berry is a graduate of Bethany College and was a Rotary Graduate Scholar at the University of Adelaide. He speaks Spanish and Arabic.



David Hale - Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

David Hale (SFS) of New Jersey is the new Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Hale joined the Foreign Service in 1984 and previously was ambassador to Pakistan, ambassador to Lebanon, special envoy for Middle East peace and deputy special envoy and ambassador to Jordan. Hale was also deputy assistant secretary of state for Israel, Egypt and the Levant, and director for Israel-Palestinian affairs. Hale is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He speaks Arabic.



Michael A. Hammer - U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Michael A. Hammer (SFS) of Maryland is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Hammer currently serves as acting senior vice president of National Defense University in Washington, D.C. Previously, he was vice chancellor at the College of International Security Affairs and Deputy Commandant at Eisenhower School at National Defense University. Prior to that, Hammer served as ambassador to Chile. He earned a B.S. from Georgetown University, an M.S. at the National Defense University National War College and an M.A. from Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He speaks Spanish, French and Portuguese.



Philip S. Kosnett - U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo

Philip S. Kosnett (SFS) of Virginia is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo. Kosnett has served as deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires ad interim at Embassy Ankara since 2016. During his 35-year career as a diplomat, he has served in multiple senior positions for the Department and at posts including Kabul, Baghdad, Reykjavik, The Hague and Nagoya. Kosnett earned an A.B. at Harvard University. He speaks Turkish, Russian, Dutch and Japanese.



Donald Lu - U.S. Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan

Donald Lu (SFS) of California is the new U.S. Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan. A diplomat for 25 years, Lu has served as the ambassador to the Republic of Albania since 2014. Prior to that, Lu served in several senior positions, including deputy coordinator for Ebola response, deputy chief of mission in India, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, and chargé d'affaires at Embassy Azerbaijan. Lu graduated from Princeton University with both bachelor's and master's degrees in international relations. He speaks Albanian, Russian, Georgian, Azerbaijani, Urdu, Hindi and West African Krio.



Georgette Paulsin Mosbacher - U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Poland

Georgette Paulsin Mosbacher of Indiana is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Poland. Previously, Mosbacher was on the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. She has also served as a member of the U.S. Advisory Board for Trade Policy and Negotiations. Mosbacher currently is the president and CEO of Georgette Mosbacher Enterprises, Inc. She is dedicated to U.S. military veterans, to the empowerment of women and to the furtherance of public-private partnerships to solve societal problems.



Judy Rising Reinke - U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro

Judy Rising Reinke (SFS) of Virginia is the new U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro. Reinke has served for more than three decades as a strategist and advocate for U.S. commercial interests across the world with an emphasis on Europe and Southeast Asia. Most recently, Reinke served as deputy director general of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service/Global Markets division of the Department of Commerce, and as acting assistant secretary and director general. Reinke earned a B.A. from Smith College and a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University. She speaks German, French, Bahasa Indonesia and Thai.



Stephanie Sanders Sullivan - U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana

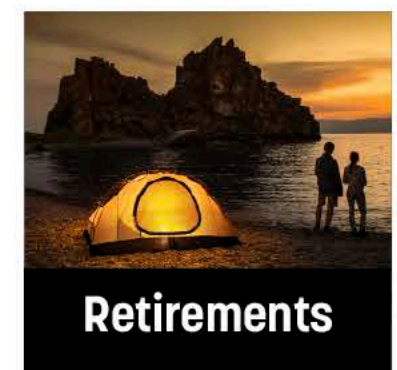
Stephanie Sanders Sullivan (SFS) of Maryland is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana. Sullivan has served as deputy assistant secretary and the acting principal deputy assistant secretary for African Affairs since 2017. Prior to that, she served as ambassador to the Republic of Congo, as well as in numerous other senior positions within the Department, and as duty officer at the White House situation room. Sullivan earned a B.A. from Brown University and an M.S. from the National Defense University. She speaks French, Lingala and Spanish.



Alaina B. Teplitz - U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Republic of Maldives

Alaina B. Teplitz (SFS) of Colorado is the new U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and, concurrently, the new Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives. A diplomat for more than 25 years, Teplitz currently serves as Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. Previously she served in senior leadership positions throughout the Department and as the management minister counselor of Embassy Kabul. Teplitz earned a B.A. from Georgetown University. She speaks Albanian, Chinese-Mandarin, French and Mongolian.

English Language Fellows prepare for postings abroad

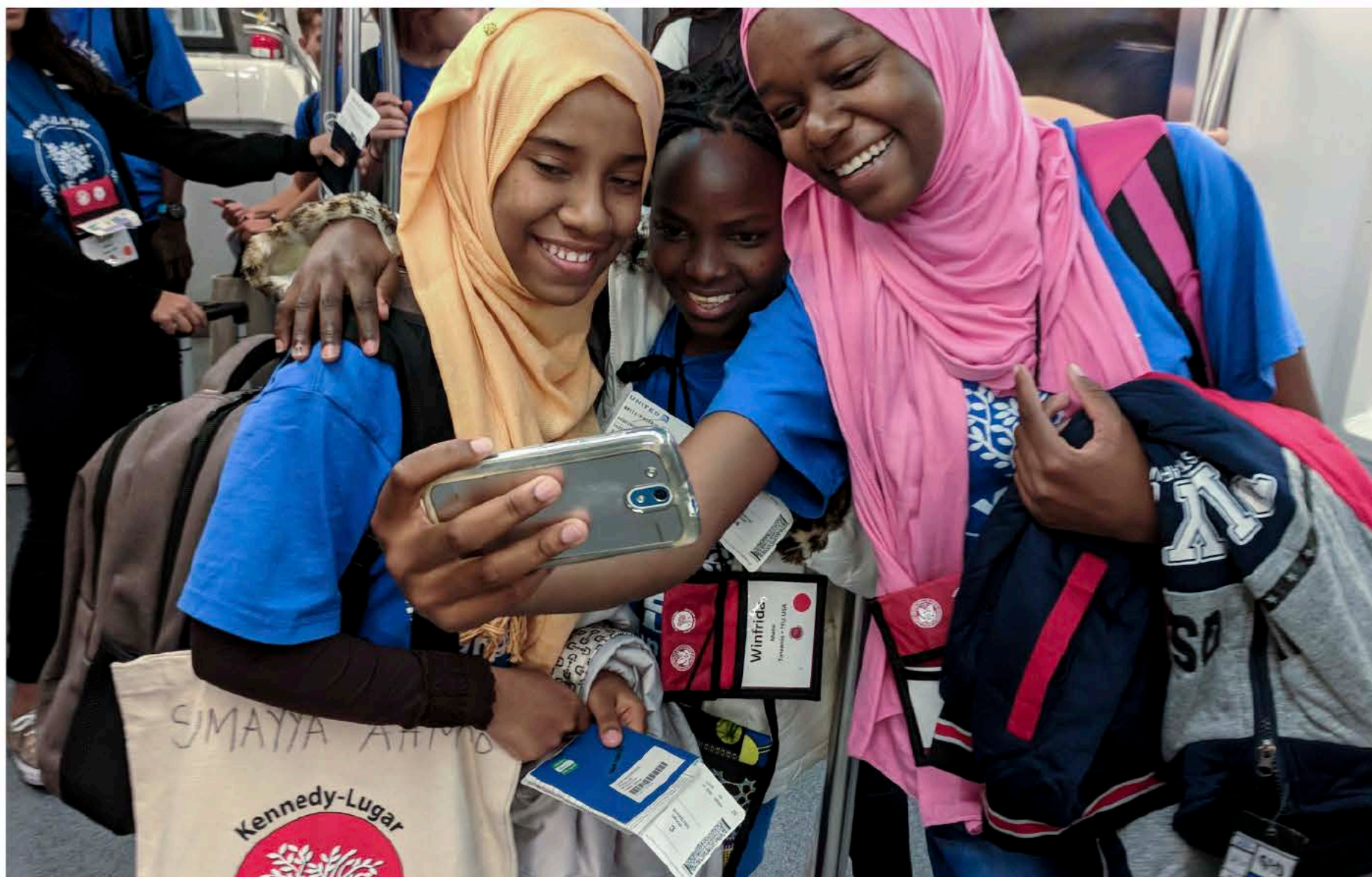


TAP Image
to Read Story

English Language (EL) Fellows are American English teaching professionals who participate in 10-month assignments at universities and other academic institutions in more than 80 countries. This summer, EL Fellows attended a three-day orientation in Washington, D.C., to prepare for their assignments and meet Department of State representatives, including Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce. ■

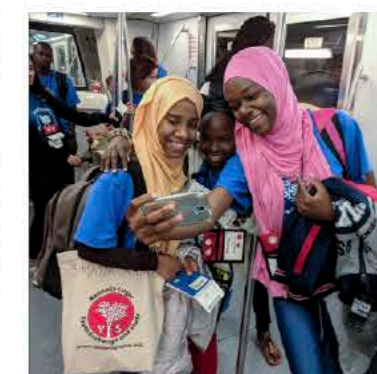
Photo by Adam Lee

YES program builds leaders and youth ambassadors



Three Tanzanian students (from left: Sumayya Yakoub, Winfrida Mwita and Ayman Migoda) participating in the Department of State's Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program snap one last selfie together at Dulles Airport before parting ways. The students are participating in a 10-month exchange where they will live with a volunteer host family and attend an American high school. YES students spend their academic year learning about American society and values from their host families and communities, acquiring leadership skills through volunteerism, and educating Americans about their home countries as youth ambassadors. For more information, visit the [YES Programs website](#). ■

Photo by Michelle Olsen



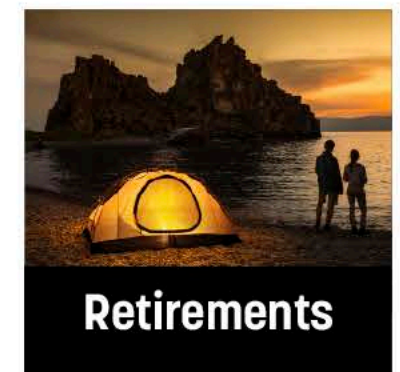
TAP Image
to Read Story

Exchange program helps close skills gap

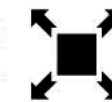


An International Visitor Leadership Program addressed challenges in delivering education and postsecondary vocational skills training to rural indigenous communities in Canada. The participants met with American counterparts in the U.S. to investigate how indigenous communities that lack digital, financial and human resources can successfully identify and mitigate achievement gaps in the United States. The participants met tribal leaders of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to discuss trends, challenges and opportunities encouraging tribal members to participate in vocational training. The tribe offers a vocational scholarship to curb unemployment trends on the reservation. ■

Photo by Kimberley Puhach



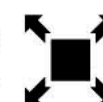
TAP Image
to Read Story



Sports diplomacy makes a splash in Japan



TAP Image
to Read Story



The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo organized a swimming clinic and official reception with five-time Olympic swimming gold medalist Katie Ledecky, Aug. 14, as a target-of-opportunity Sports Envoy program following her competition at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championship. Ledecky engaged with excited elementary to high school-aged swimmers in the Setagaya Ward, an area designated as “Hometown USA” for hosting American Olympians’ training sessions before and during the 2020 Olympics. This high-profile

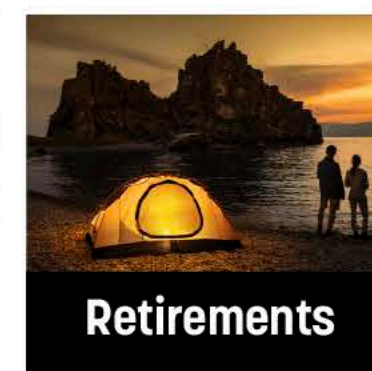
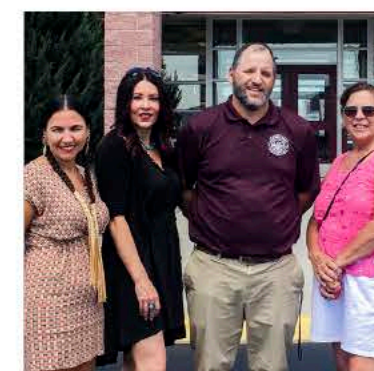
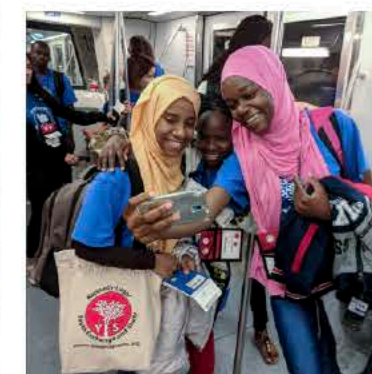
Reti

Sports diplomacy makes a splash in Japan

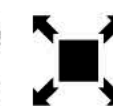


The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo organized a swimming clinic and official reception with five-time Olympic swimming gold medalist Katie Ledecky, Aug. 14, as a target-of-opportunity Sports Envoy program following her competition at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championship. Ledecky engaged with excited elementary to high school-aged swimmers in the Setagaya Ward, an area designated as “Hometown USA” for hosting American Olympians’ training sessions before and during the 2020 Olympics. This high-profile event attracted significant media attention to Embassy Tokyo’s “Go for Gold” 2020 Tokyo Olympics-themed youth outreach campaign that encourages Japanese students to study in the United States. ■

Photo courtesy of Embassy Tokyo



TAP Image
to Read Story

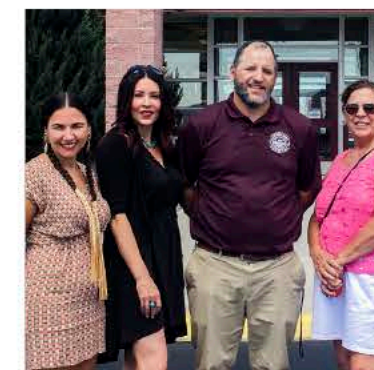


ECA honors outstanding employees

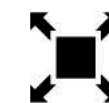


Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce presented employees with awards during a bureau-wide ceremony, Aug. 6. The awards acknowledge recipients who display excellence in the arena of educational and cultural diplomacy. Board Chair of the Lois Roth Endowment Dr. Skyler Arndt-Briggs attended the event and underscored the importance of increasing mutual understanding between countries through people-to-people exchanges. ■

Photo by Westley Eldredge



TAP Image
to Read Story



Retirements

Civil Service

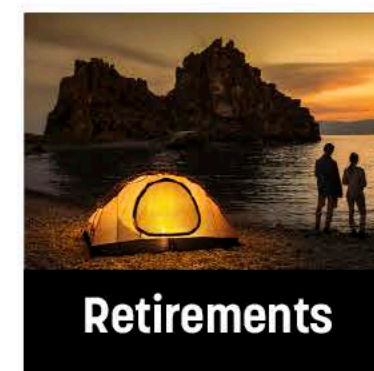
Brown, Betty J.
Durov, Victoria Ann
El Alouani, Rachida
Evans, Alan K.
Floyd, Sharone
Johnson, Michael T.
Jones, Shirley M.
Kauffman, Mary E.
Kizer, Robin B.
Kouroupas, Maria P.
Marrero, Carmen
McMahan, Sharon E.
Murashchyk, Ihor G.

Persons, Michael H.
Pshak, David J.
Spriggs, Kevin L.
Stewart-Coates, Shirley
Tyler, Eva O.
Whetsel, Robert M.
Willman, Alexander J.

Foreign Service

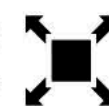
Ahmed, Ashraf
Allen, Mark C.
Arnold, Jeffrey A.
Bernstein, Betty A.
Bevard Jr., Robert L.
Chapman, Thomas R.
Elston, Scott F.
Fierstine, David L.
Fox, Eldin W.
Gowen, Sarah G.
Hansen, Patricia L.
Healy, Kent C.
Hubbell, Donald A.
Hurtado, L. Victor

Jeras, Jenny A.
Johnson, Joseph C.
McManus, Daniel L.
Mull, Stephen D.
Perkins, Michael V.
Pflaumer, Marian A.
Ramos, Erlinda V.
Sauer, James M.
Smith, Darrel G.
Soltow, Edward W.
Townsend, Walter
Ulery, Shari L.
Voltmer, Chever X.
Waldrop, Robert B.

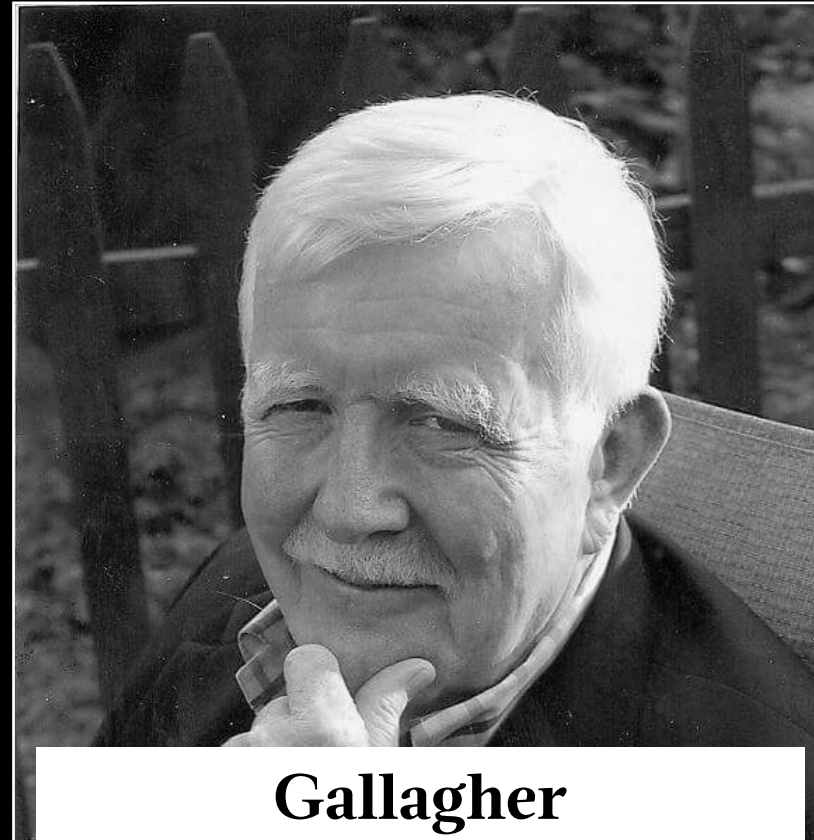


Retirements

TAP Image
to Read Story



In Memoriam



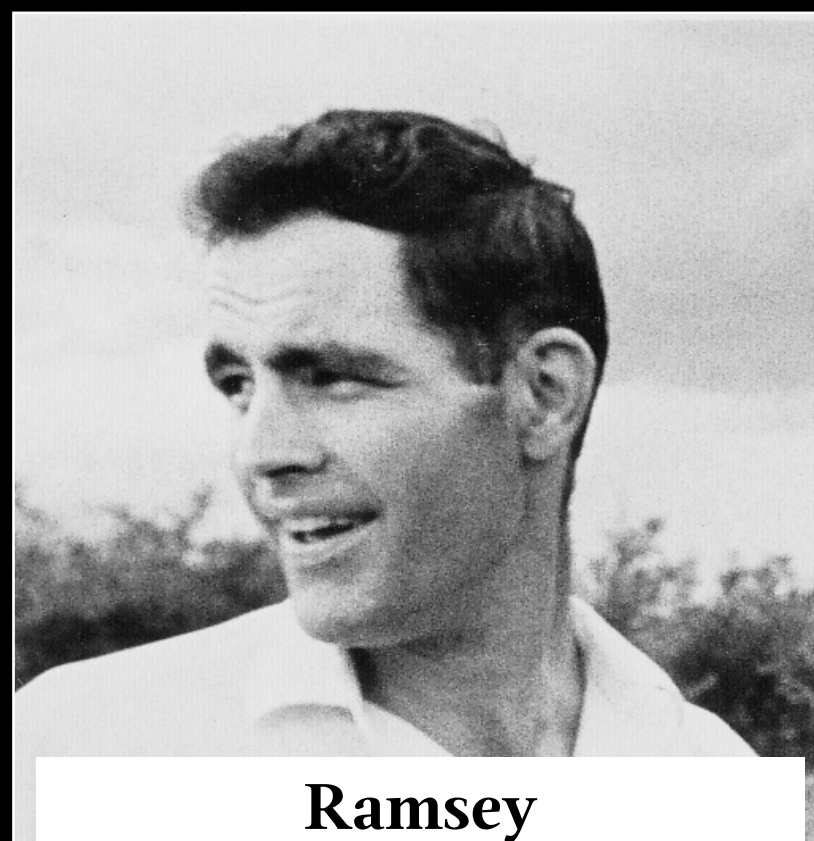
Gallagher



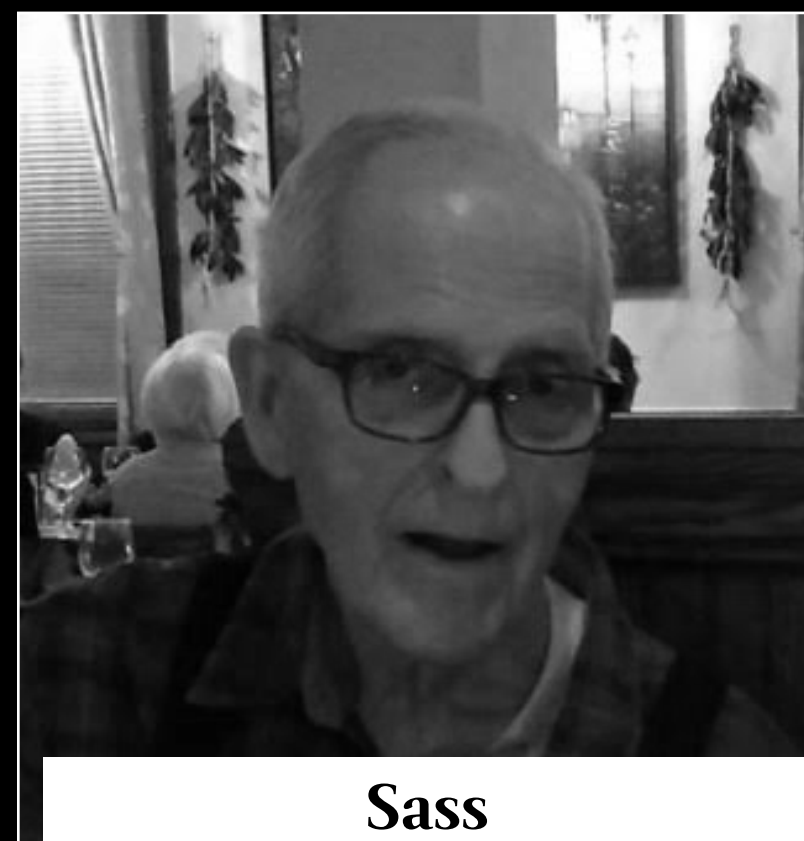
Kennedy



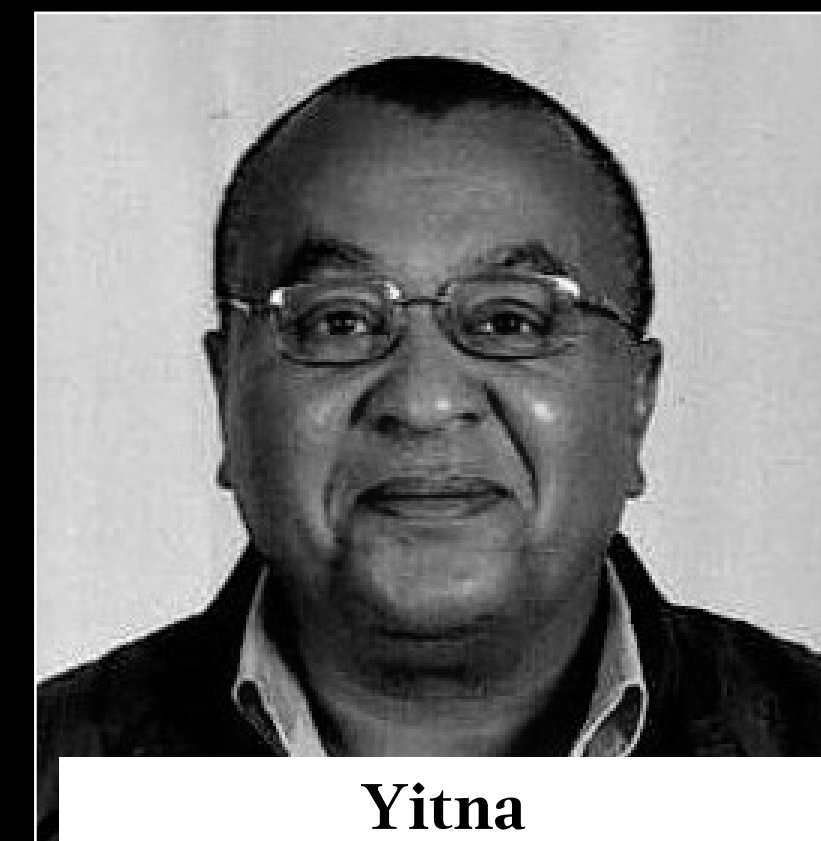
McMahan



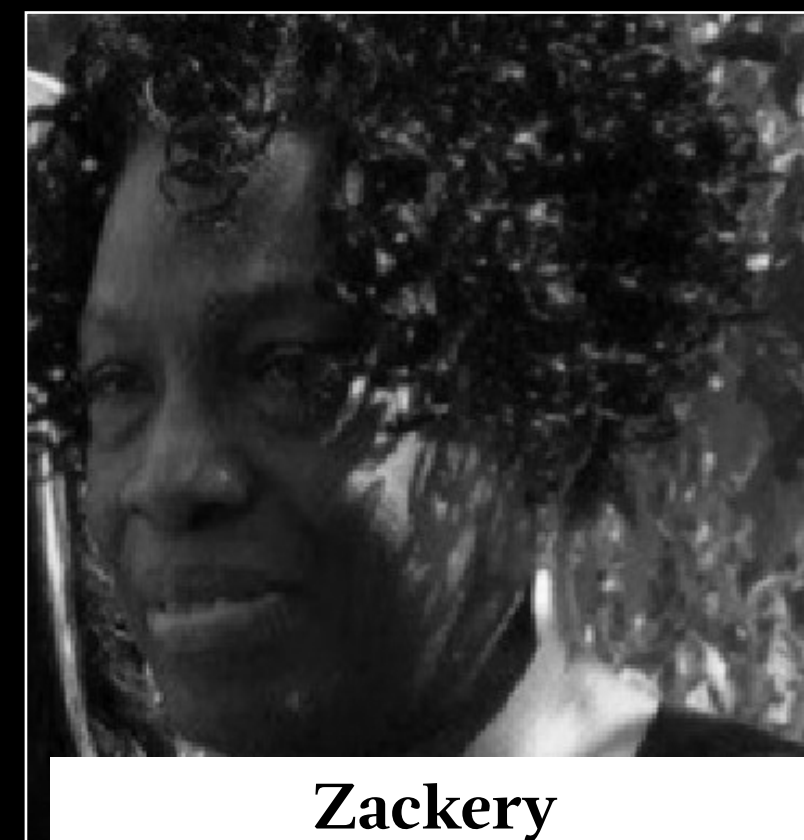
Ramsey



Sass



Yitna



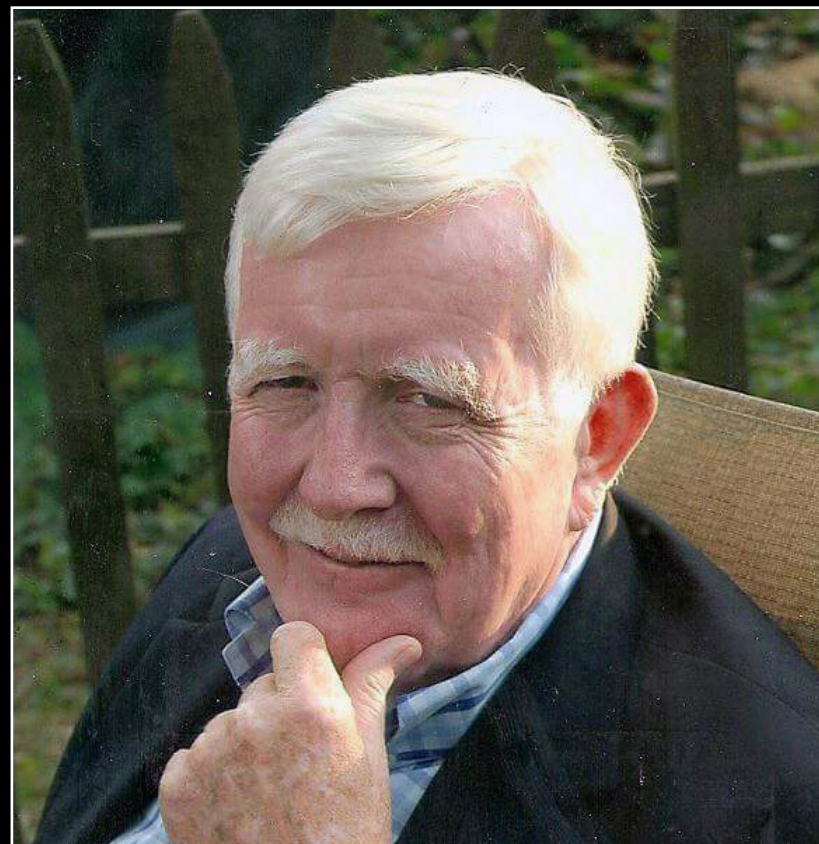
Zackery

*Questions concerning employee deaths should be directed to the Office of Casualty Assistance at (202) 736-4302.
Inquiries concerning deaths of retired employees should be directed to the Office of Retirement at (202) 261-8960.
For specific questions on submitting an obituary, please contact Heidi Howland at howlandh@state.gov.*



In Memoriam

Thomas Gallagher



Thomas Gallagher, 77, died July 8. After graduating from Monmouth College, Gallagher joined the Peace Corps and served in Ethiopia. He then joined the Foreign Service and served for more than 10 years, at posts including Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Ecuador, where he served as consul general. He also held various positions domestically, in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and San Francisco. In 1975, at the age of 35, Gallagher became the first openly gay Foreign Service officer. He left the Department in 1976 and pursued a career as a social worker, spending nearly two decades working with AIDS patients and mentally ill senior citizens. Gallagher returned to the Department in 1994, serving as country officer for Eritrea and Sudan, and as regional advisor for Europe in the Office of International Health. He retired in 2005. Gallagher is survived by his husband, Amin Dulkumoni.

[↑ Return](#)



In Memoriam

Edwin P. Kennedy Jr.



Edwin P. Kennedy Jr., 95, died July 23. Kennedy joined the American Field Service in 1943 and was sent to India. After returning to the U.S., Kennedy joined the U.S. Army in 1944 and trained as an infantry soldier. He was sent to Europe to join the 116th Infantry Regiment during World War II. In 1945, he was selected to attend The Army University No. 2, in Biarritz, France, for a semester. He joined the Foreign Service in 1961 and was assigned to posts in Syria, Belgium, Iran, Cameroon and Germany. He retired in 1988 and lived with his wife, Traudis, in Bethesda, Md. He is survived by his sons, Peter W. Kennedy and James E. Kennedy.

[↑ Return](#)



In Memoriam

Robert T. McMahan Jr.



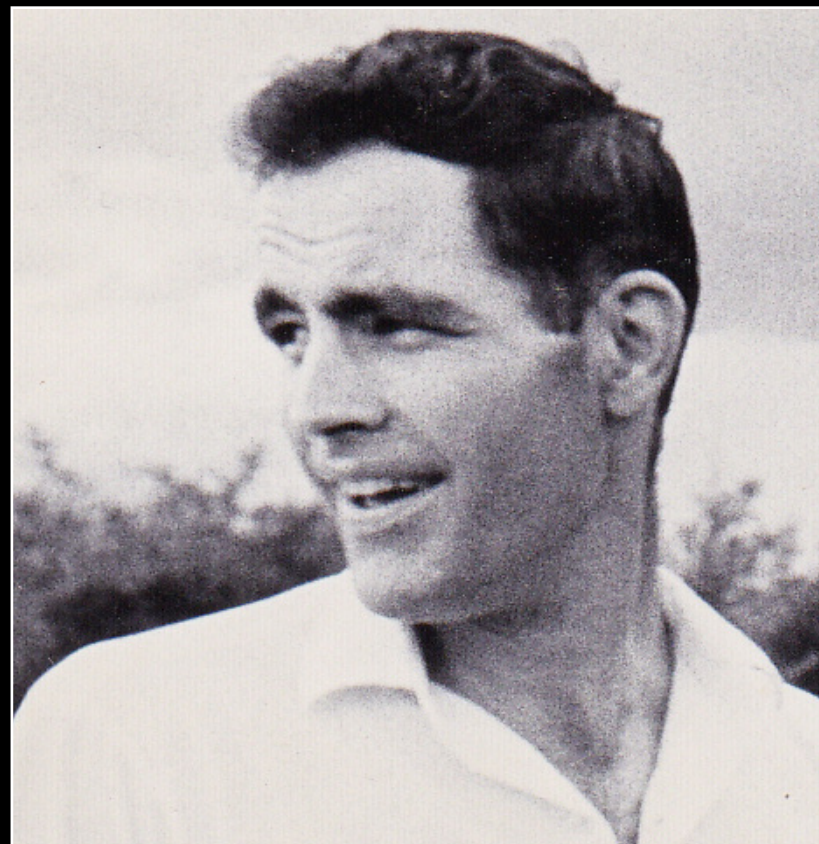
Robert T. McMahan Jr., 77, died May 21, at his home in Virginia. He received degrees from the University of Maryland and MIT. McMahan served in the Air Force, 1960–1964, and later as a Foreign Service officer for more than 20 years, retiring from the Department in 1999. His overseas posts included Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and Ecuador. After retiring, McMahan volunteered and remained an avid reader. He is survived by his wife, Tina, and his five children—Sally, Linda, Susan, Amy and Cynthia.

[↑ Return](#)



In Memoriam

Douglas K. Ramsey



Douglas K. Ramsey, 83, died Feb. 23, in Boulder City, Nev. Ramsey graduated summa cum laude from Occidental College and was a Rhodes Scholar. Following a year of graduate work at Harvard University, he fulfilled his U.S. Air Force ROTC commitment, serving in Japan. Ramsey entered the Foreign Service in June 1956. After initial research assignments in Washington, D.C., and Honolulu, he served in Vietnam. After three years in Vietnam, in 1966, he was captured and became a Vietnam prisoner of war for seven years. After his release, Ramsey served in Taipei, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and Manila. He retired in 1988. Ramsey is predeceased by his parents and is survived by a number of cousins and numerous friends. A member of DACOR, his ashes will be interred in the DACOR section of Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

[↑ Return](#)



In Memoriam

Frank Norwin Sass



Frank Norwin Sass, 89, died Aug. 3. After serving in the U.S. Army, Sass entered the Civil Service in 1972. He served the Department for more than 30 years, retiring in 2006. After his retirement, Sass enjoyed spending time with his wife of 65 years, Mary, who passed away on Aug. 10. Sass is survived by his son, Martin, who is a Department employee, and his daughter, Nancy.

[↑ Return](#)



In Memoriam

Tedla Yeardaw Yitna



Tedla Yeardaw Yitna, 69, died June 4, in Fairfax, Va. He graduated from Emperor Haile Selassie University Business College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1973, and his graduating class was the last to receive their degrees from the emperor. Yitna immigrated to the U.S. in 1980. Before joining the Foreign Service in 1998, he worked for the YMCA and with the Peace Corps in Swaziland and Jordan. As a Foreign Service officer, Yitna's overseas posts included Uganda, Botswana, Nigeria and Kenya. After retiring in 2015, he returned to the Department as a reemployed annuitant (WAE) and worked in Senegal, Malawi, Chad and Kenya. Yitna is survived by his wife, Wolansa Mekonnen, and son, Adam Yitna.

[↑ Return](#)



In Memoriam

Marsha T. Zackery



Marsha T. Zackery died Aug. 5, in Bowie, Md. Zackery served the Department for nearly 50 years as a civil servant. She worked in several bureaus and offices during her tenure at the Department, including the Bureau of Administration Executive Office, the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Executive Office, and the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. She retired this year. Zackery is predeceased by her husband, Robert Zackery, and her son, Terrence Zackery. She is survived by her son, Landon Robert Zackery, and her two grandchildren.

[↑ Return](#)



LYING IN STATE: NEW POSITIONS AVAILABLE ON BID LISTS!

POLITICAL OFFICER, CONSULATE GARDEN OF EDEN

SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT THE SERPENT- HE'S GOT SOME REALLY ROBUST TALKING POINTS...



REGIONAL DIPLODOCUS, EMBASSY RITZOVIA



DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PASSIVE AGGRESSION

I'M SORRY YOU THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD THE OFFICE BATHROOM POLICY.



ECONOMIC OFFICER, EMBASSY ALLELVISIA

YO, WHERE ARE MY CROONING POINTS?



REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER, EMBASSY MORESTRESSTAN



PRINCIPAL OFFICER, ASTEROID A104VQX





Pedestrians walk along Singapore's waterfront promenade as it passes under Jubilee Bridge between Esplanade Park and Marina Bay. *Photo by Isaac D. Pacheco*

End State

